

**TODAY**  
**THE TIMES**  
**WINS THE**  
**NEWSPAPER**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
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PLUS: CAR 97, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES

READERS AND DIRECTORY FOR THE BEST 7 DAYS IN RADIO AND WHAT'S ON GUIDE

## It's time for action, says Blair

### First seven ministers named after takeover at Number 10

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR hailed a new dawn yesterday as he strode into Downing Street and promised to unite the nation.

The youngest Prime Minister since 1812 was mobbed by an enthusiastic crowd as he and his young family made their way to the country's most famous address. Pledging to run a new Labour Government based on compassion and decency, he then went inside to begin the work of state and form his Cabinet.

Within hours of being elected in a landslide that left the Conservative Party devastated and despairing, Mr Blair had seen seven members of his top team and announced their jobs. John Prescott is to run a new environment super-ministry as well as being Deputy Prime Minister. Lord Irvine of Lairg, Mr Blair's legal mentor in an earlier career, will be Lord Chancellor as well as having a big role in overseeing the devolution legislation and chairing Cabinet committees.

Gordon Brown, as expected, will be Chancellor; Robin Cook Foreign Secretary; David Blunkett Education Secretary; and Jack Straw Home Secretary. Margaret Beckett was named President of the Board of Trade.

The remainder of the Cabinet will be announced today. It is expected to include Mo Mowlam as Northern Ireland Secretary, Donald Dewar as Scottish Secretary in charge of devolution and Clare Short as Overseas Development Minister.

The Conservatives were meanwhile still reeling from the shock of their party's most catastrophic electoral showing for 165 years — one that robbed them of a third of their Cabinet seats.

John Major bowed out not only as Prime Minister, but also as Tory leader, making a dignified exit that won tributes from his political opponents. "When the curtain falls, it is time to get off the stage and that is what I propose to do," he said. The vote for a successor is expected to take place in about six weeks' time.

He would not have wanted to stay on: the Tory representation in the Commons was halved to 165 seats, and the party was wiped out in

With all 659 seats declared the state of the parties was:

Gains	Losses	Total
Labour 146	0	418
Cons 0	178	185
Lib Dem 30	2	46
Others 4	0	29
Speaker		1

Overall majority: 177  
 Share of vote: Labour 44.4%; Conservative 31.4%; Lib Dem 12.2%; Others 7%  
 Swing C to Lab: 10%  
 Turnout: 71.3%

**'Blair's inner group' is neither a collection of functionaries nor a sect, but closer to a family**

— *Sidney Blumenthal inside Millbank, page 4*

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Scotland and Wales: Seven Cabinet ministers — Michael Portillo, Malcolm Rifkind, Ian Lang, William Waldegrave, Michael Forsyth, Tony Newton and Roger Freeman — were rejected by their constituencies as Labour stormed to 418 seats, its highest tally yet, and a Commons majority of 177.

It was a triumphant result, too, for the Liberal Democrats. Their tally of 46 seats was the highest by a third party since 1929 and was described by Paddy Ashdown as "fantastic". In a final twist, Mr Ashdown's party took Winchester — the last seat declared — from the Tories by two votes, ousting the former minister Gerry Malone.

Mr Blair had woken on Thursday expecting a majority of between 30 and 40. It was only when he heard of Michael Portillo's defeat in the early hours of yesterday that he finally accepted that he was heading for a victory of momentous proportions.

As he drove from Stansted to the

Labour celebrations at the Festival Hall, he received a call from President Clinton congratulating him on his "startling" victory. And his officials said that he felt the "extraordinary" majority would give him the momentum he needed at the start of his Government.

It was a day on which all politicians — and particularly Mr Blair and his entourage — seemed keenly aware of the historic sweep of events.

As the new Prime Minister was driven from his Islington home to Buckingham Palace to receive the seals of office from the Queen, people ran into the streets to cheer, a reception that convinced him that Labour's return to power had inspired hope and optimism. It was a view reinforced on the way from the Palace to Downing Street, when he and his wife, Cherie, spent some time walking along the street acknowledging the cheers of party workers and members of the public. In front of Number 10, he told the nation that he had run for office as new Labour and would govern as new Labour. "This is not a mandate for dogma or for doctrine, or for a return to the past, but it was a mandate to get those things done in our country that desperately need doing for the future," he said. "And this new Labour Government will govern in the interests of all our people — the whole of this nation. That I can promise you."

Speaking of his party's 18 "long years" of opposition he said: "It could only say, it could not do. Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today, enough of talking. It is time now to do."

He also paid tribute to his predecessor for his dignity and courage over the last few days and the manner of his leaving — the essential decency of which is the mark of the man.

Mr Blair was then applauded by the Downing Street staff as he walked in, the traditional greeting for a new Prime Minister. He had immediate discussions with the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and other officials, before taking a short lunch with close relatives.



Making an entrance: Tony and Cherie Blair, with Nicholas, Kathryn and Euan, move into No 10

### Clarke rushes into race for Tory leadership

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

KENNETH CLARKE became the first candidate to throw his hat into the ring for the Conservative leadership after John Major said he was standing down yesterday.

All the indications had been that John Redwood, who was defeated by Mr Major in the 1995 contest, would declare immediately. However, along with several other candidates, the former Welsh Secretary consulted friends and held back from formally announcing his challenge.

Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister, could emerge as the unity candidate after the worst night in Tory electoral history. However, he is expected to stand only if it is clear that he would win strong support among the much-reduced band of Tory MPs. Influential figures suggested yesterday that Mr Heseltine might be seen as the man who could rouse the party to take on Tony Blair after his thumping victory.

William Hague, the former Welsh Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, the former Health Secretary, and Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, were also expected to spend the weekend consulting friends and supporters before declaring. The contest is likely to take place either late next month or in July.

Mr Clarke declared his intentions on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* — less than two hours after Mr Major said he was stepping down. Mr Clarke said: "I certainly intend to be a candidate in the leadership election." He said Mr Major had behaved "with very great dignity and has come out of the campaign with great personal credit".

## All out, but Major finds solace at the Oval

By Alan Hamilton

JOHN MAJOR once told Sue Lawley that his one luxury on a desert island would be the Oval cricket ground. Yesterday, on his first day in the wilderness, it was to that spiritual home that he returned — turned upside-down into some kind of perspective.

Cricket is balm to a troubled Englishman's soul, especially when the sky is cloudless, the weather shirtless and the wicket fast. Never mind that the fixture was minor and the crowd thinner on the ground than Tory voters in Totton: for a general who had just led his armies to historic defeat, Mr Major gave every impression of a man at peace, a man now engaged in life's really important matters, like the superb Surrey catch taken in the

outfield right under his nose. Having delivered his resignation to the Queen, Mr Major lost no time in gathering his family around him and heading for Kennington in his new car. His former prime ministerial blue Daimler now has a different owner: he arrived in the chauffeur-driven green Jaguar of the Leader of the Opposition. Fans pressed around him and begged his autograph on

newspapers, scorecards, any piece of paper to hand; he spent ten minutes obliging them all. When one man offered him a newspaper below "Labour Heading for Landslide" across its front page, Mr Major said in mock shock: "You've got a bit of a cheek." A kindred cricket spirit sympathised with his defeat: "You got a bit of a dodgy LBW decision last night, mate," Mr Major replied in kind. "Yes, but the umpire's decision is final."

Dressed in shirt, pale blue tie and rather smart square sunglasses, Mr Major took his seat in the pavilion beside Betty, widow of the great Surrey captain Stuart Surridge, a hero of his youth. This was a heaven far from Continued on page 2, col 8

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## Two-vote majority

By Adrian Lee

TORY misery was completed last night when it lost the final seat to be declared by two votes, the smallest majority for 87 years.

Gerry Malone, a junior health Minister, was defeated in Winchester, Hampshire, by his Liberal Democrat opponent after two recounts. The first put the Liberal Democrats ahead, the second made the Tories the winners. Mr

Malone finally admitted defeat more than 19 hours after the polls closed.

New tellers had to be brought in by the returning officer to replace exhausted colleagues. Mark Oaten, the victor, polled 26,100 votes while Mr Malone attracted 26,098. Mr Malone said he had not ruled out challenging the result in court.

In 1910 H E Drake triumphed for the Unionists in Exeter by one vote.

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# Europe hopes for a chance to kiss and make up

By CHARLES BRENNER  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A WAVE of relief, as well as some gloating, swept Europe yesterday as European Union leaders on the left and right hailed Labour's victory as a fresh start for Britain's long-troubled relations with the Continent.

Amid the chorus of undisguised satisfaction at the removal of the Conservative Government, the Dutch called a special EU summit meeting at Noordwijk, on the North Sea coast, for May 23. The gathering will be a get-acquainted session for Tony Blair,

but the big test for his statesmanship will come on June 15, at the Amsterdam summit to finish the revamped Maastricht treaty. There, the jolly welcome for the new boy will give way to cold-eyed bargaining and Mr Blair will be offered no quarter as Britain's partners push for deeper political integration.

France's Gaullist Government and Germany's centre-right administration cheered the Blair victory, notably citing Labour's commitment to sign the social chapter. Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said there was "new hope for social Europe".

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, urged the new Government to give Britain "a great role corresponding to its great history and its experience".

Chancellor Kohl, depicted last month by the Tories as Mr Blair's puppet-master, delivered a blunt verdict: "Voters did not like the anti-European rhetoric of the past weeks and this should be a lesson for all those who want to win votes with anti-European polemics."

## FOREIGN REACTION

by Tony Blair after President Clinton congratulated him on his victory. In a three-minute conversation shortly before midnight on Thursday, Mr Clinton said he looked forward to working with the Labour leader to pursue an "agenda of common purpose".

□ Greece: the election of Tony Blair has revived Greek hopes that they might soon get back the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum. Evangelos Venizelos, the Culture Minister, said that he would write to his British opposite number as

soon as one was appointed, reminding the Labour Party of its promise to return the marbles if it attained power.

□ Argentina: President Menem said he hoped the election victory would lead to "positive" developments over the Falkland Islands. "There are always hopes that when there is a change in government and orientation, there can be some positive aspects on our claim for sovereignty."

□ Hong Kong: Chris Patten, the Governor, congratulated Mr Blair and said he expected the cross-party agreement on Hong Kong to continue. Tung Chee-hwa, the

Chief Executive-elect, said he looked forward to working closely with Mr Blair and especially welcomed the Labour Party's statement that it would co-operate with China to ensure that Hong Kong becomes "a bridge rather than a barrier between London and Beijing".

□ Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party, who had recently seen President Clinton in Washington, said he hoped that Mr Blair would come to Hong Kong soon to show his support for democracy. □ Australia: the Australian Labour Party, which suffered much the same annihilation at last year's

general election as the Conservatives did yesterday, has taken some of the credit for Mr Blair's landslide. Kim Beazley, the Opposition leader, said: "He learnt a lot from us." Mr Blair is known to have seen Australia as his model of a free market, centre-left government when Labor was in power and even went so far as to accept a few election tips from the former Prime Minister, Paul Keating.

□ Cyprus: President Clerides congratulated Mr Blair in a telegram and hoped that he would press on with efforts to find a settlement to the division of the former British colony.

# Minorities join record number of women MPs

By MARK HENDERSON

THE new Labour Party will be the most socially diverse parliamentary force ever assembled, with women making up almost a quarter of its MPs, more blacks and Asians elected than ever before and a youthful contingent unprecedented in this century.

All-women shortlists in target seats have ensured that 101 Labour women have been elected to Parliament out of 419 MPs. They include Cissela Stuart, whose victory in Birmingham Edgbaston, the first marginal to declare, showed that Tony Blair was on his way to Downing Street, and Patricia Hewitt, who advises Mr Blair on management and who is tipped for a ministerial job.

Altogether, at least 120 women have been elected, more than double the number in the last Parliament. Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said: "This is an historic day for women and I believe it will enrich the political process in this country." The number of Conservative women in the House fell from 18 to 11. Three Liberal Democrat women and two Scottish Nationalists were elected.

Harriet Harman said the results were a great step forward for women and democracy: "This will mean a new style of government, with

more mothers in the mother of parliaments."

Mr Blair will also benefit from some of the youngest MPs elected in recent memory, with eight of the new intake of MPs are under 30. The youngest is Christopher Leslie, 24, who defeated Sir Marcus Fox, the 69-year-old chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, in Shipley. Mr Leslie, a former researcher to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will be the youngest MP since Bernadette Devlin won Mid-Ulster in 1969. He is a month younger

## NEW INTAKE

than another 24-year-old, Clare Ward, Labour MP for Watford. Other young Labour members include Yvette Cooper, a former journalist and economics adviser to Mr Brown, in Pontefract and Castleford, and Ruth Kelly, a Bank of England economist, who won Bolton West from Tom Sackville, the Home Office Minister, while pregnant. Five former presidents of the National Union of Students were elected, including Lorna Fitzsimmons, 29, in Rochdale, and Jim Murphy, 29, in Eastwood, formerly the safest Tory seat in Scotland.

Five Asian and four black MPs were elected for Labour,

another record, including Britain's first Muslim MP, Mohammad Sarwar, in Glasgow Govan, and a first Asian woman, Marsha Singh, in Bradford West. Mr Sarwar's election was marred by fighting between supporters of the British National Party and the Scottish Socialist Alliance, which fielded candidates against him. The only Asian Tory MP, Nirj Deva, lost his seat in Brentworth and Isleworth.

Two openly homosexual candidates were returned, Stephen Twigg against Michael Portillo in Enfield Southgate, and the BBC journalist Ben Bradshaw against the Tory homophobe Dr Adrian Rogers in Exeter. Mr Rogers dubbed Mr Bradshaw "ben Ben" during the campaign, and railed against homosexuality as "godforsaken and diseaseridden". Mr Bradshaw said his election was a victory for reason over bigotry.

While most of the new intake of MPs have professional backgrounds in law, teaching, local government or the media, Labour's roots as a working class movement are also represented. Ivan Henderson is a docker in Harwich, where he defeated the Iain Sproat, the Sports Minister, and Clive Efford, who won Eltham, in south London, is a taxi driver.



John Prescott arriving at No 10 yesterday afternoon to hear of his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister

# Privy Council sets seal on Cabinet

TONY BLAIR will be officially sworn in as Prime Minister by the Queen at Buckingham Palace tonight.

A convoy of government cars with the new Cabinet and Privy Counsellors will arrive at the Palace shortly before 6pm, in time to allow ministers to congregate in the 1844 room for the first meeting of the Privy Council.

Mr Blair will be presented with the letters patent and be sworn in as Prime Minister. The great seals of office — about the size of a dinner plate — will also be presented to the most senior ministers, the

## THE NEW GOVERNMENT

Lord Chancellor, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Secretaries of state receive seals the size of a new penny.

Each new Privy Counsellor must take the oath of office and "kiss hands" of the Queen; in reality it is a brush of the lips. Nigel Nicholls, clerk to the Privy Council, will read out the oath to each member who will reply: "I do." The oath binds the member to serve the nation and to

keep secret the affairs of state.

Those ministers who swear a solemn oath are then presented with a claret, leather-bound prayer book of the New Testament. There is an inscription to record the occasion and it is signed by the Lord President of the Council — widely tipped last night to be Donald Dewar, as Leader of the Commons.

Non-believers merely have to affirm an oath and they have no memento of the occasion. John Prescott, Robin

Cook and Margaret Beckett are already Privy Counsellors who affirmed. The only other members in Mr Blair's frontbench team are the Prime Minister himself, Gordon Brown, Donald Dewar, Derek Foster, Jack Cunningham and Lord Richard.

Mr Blair is limited to 22 paid Cabinet posts under rules set out in the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. However, the law does not impose a ban on the number of ministers attending the Cabinet, as long as they are paid outside the Cabinet or do not receive a Cabinet salary.

# Major

Continued from page 1  
the purgatory of politics, although in the parallel universe of the Benson & Hedges one-day fixture being played in his honour, British Universities XI were struggling at a miserable 40 for 4 against brisk Surrey bowlers. It was the equivalent of trailing badly in the polls, although a late rally of the kind Mr Major would have died for earlier this week left them all out for a modestly respectable 198.

The Major family — John, Norma, James, Elizabeth and the children's respective partners — came and went over the railing of their privileged enclosure to talk to the cameras. "Where else should I be on a day like this when the sun is shining?" asked the Leader of the Opposition.

He may well have been misty-eyed, but it was impossible to tell behind the shades. "Cricket has been part of my life since I was smaller than that boy there," he said, indicating a diminutive autograph-hunter. Reporters asked how long he had slept. "None of us got any sleep last night." Well, Mr Major, you don't look tired. "It was only a six-week campaign. That's the trouble with you hacks; no stamina." He smiled the smile that he wore throughout the ultimately fruitless campaign.

He dodged all questions about the future, even about what he planned to do for the weekend, and retired into the pavilion to lunch on soups of sole and buckets of goulash. As he did so the public address system was making his sales pitch for the Surrey Cricket Club shop: "All items of England cricket clothing are reduced by 30 per cent." Oh, come along, it's only an election he lost; there's no need for suicide.

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## MAJOR'S SPEECH

THE following is the text of John Major's speech outside Downing Street.

Good morning. I said most of what I wish to say when I had the opportunity of speaking last evening. Perhaps, there are just one or two things it would be appropriate to add this morning.

It has been an immense privilege to serve as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom over the past 6½ years. It is a privilege which comes to very few people and it is a very precious privilege indeed.

I hope, as I leave Downing Street this morning, that I can say with some accuracy that the country is in far better shape than it was when I entered Downing Street.

The economy is booming, interest rates are low and inflation is low and unemployment is falling. The growth pattern is well set, the health service is expanding, the education service is improving and the crime statistics are falling.

All of those I think are benevolent improvements in the interests of all of the people of this country. I believe the incoming government ... to whom I repeat my warm congratulations upon their success ... the incoming government will inherit the most benevolent set of economic statistics of any incoming government since before the First World War.

I hope very much in the interests of the whole British nation that they are successful in retaining this economy in the future.

If I may, I would like to clear up one area of speculation that I know has been abroad a little over the last few days.

I have been a Member of Parliament for 18 years. I have been a member of the Government for 14 years and the Prime Minister since 1990. When the

curtain falls it is time to get off the stage and that is what I propose to do.

I shall, therefore, advise my parliamentary colleagues that it would be appropriate for them to consider the selection of a new leader of the Conservative Party to lead the party through Opposition through the years that lie immediately ahead.

This will necessarily take a little while to organise. Parliament must meet and the Members of Parliament must make their own consideration of the matter.

Naturally, I shall remain at the service of the party during what I hope will be a reasonably brief interregnum.

I should just like if I may to add one final thought. During the 6½ years I have been in Downing Street there have been innumerable kindnesses from a huge number of people, many of whom I have never met, and never heard from except by way of their individual kindnesses. I would like to take this opportunity, if I may, to extend

thanks to them and the other millions of people in the British nation who have always given me their trust and the kindnesses to which I referred. I hope you will forgive me if I say no more this morning. I believe, as you know, I have an appointment with Her Majesty the Queen in a few moments to tender my resignation so that a new Government may then be formally appointed.

I propose to see Her Majesty in just a few moments. The second reason I shall say no more now is that after that I hope that Norma and I will be able, with the children, to get to The Oval in time for lunch and for some cricket this afternoon. Thank you all very much indeed.

THE following is a text of Tony Major's speech after he arrived in Downing Street.

Thank you very much indeed. I shall say to you that I have just accepted Her Majesty the Queen's kind offer to form a new administration of government in this country.

I should like to begin if I may by paying tribute to my predecessor John Major for his dignity and his courage over these last few days and for the manner of his leaving, the essential decency of which is the mark of the man and I am pleased to pay tribute to him.

As I stand here before No 10 Downing Street, I know all too well the huge responsibility that is upon me and the great trust that the British people have placed in me.

I know well what this country has voted for today. It is a mandate for new Labour and I say to the people of this country ... we ran for office as new Labour, we will govern as new Labour.

This is not a mandate for dogma or for doctrine, or a return to the past, but it was a mandate to get those things done in our country that desperately need doing for the future of Britain.

And this new Labour Government will govern in the interests of all our people — the whole of this nation. That I can promise you. When I became leader of the Labour Party some three years ago I set a series of objectives for the Labour Party. By and large I believe we have achieved them.

Today we have set objectives for a new Labour Government ... a world class education system, in which education is not the privilege of the few but the right of the many in our country. A new Labour Government that remembers that it was a previous Labour Government that

formed and fashioned the welfare state and the National Health Service. It was our proudest creation.

It shall be our job and our duty now to modernise it for a modern world, and that we will also do.

We will work in partnership with business to create the dynamic economy, the competitive economy of the future. The one that can meet the challenges of an entirely new century and new age.

And it will be a Government that seeks to restore trust in politics in this country, that cleans it up, that decentralises it, that gives people hope again that politics is and should be always about the service of the public.

And it shall be a Government, too, that gives this country strength and confidence in leadership both at home and abroad, particularly in respect of Europe.

It shall be a Government rooted in strong values, the values of justice and progress and community, the values that have guided me all my political life.

But a Government ready with the courage to embrace the new ideas necessary to make those values live again for today's world: a Government of practical measures in pursuit of noble causes. That is our objective for the people of Britain.

Above all, we have secured a mandate to bring this nation together, to unite us — one Britain, one nation in which our ambition, our ourselves is matched by our sense of compassion, and decency and duty towards other people. Simple values, but the right ones.

For 18 years — 18 long years — my party has been in Opposition. It could only say: it could not do.

Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today, enough of talking — it is time now to do.

Thank you.



## Security men step in as excited crowd welcomes triumphant new Prime Minister and his wife



The Blairs shake hands with the rapturous crowd outside No 10 after startling their security men with an unscheduled walkabout. Inside, they pause on the stairs before portraits of previous occupants

## Blair marches into Downing Street

TONY BLAIR swept into Downing Street on a tidal wave of triumph yesterday, after the most crushing defeat of a government in living memory. After the final frantic campaigning, the elated celebration on one side and the acceptance of utter defeat on the other, yesterday witnessed a more solemn display of ritual, gallantry and anticipation.

Mr Blair followed John Major to Buckingham Palace, assuming the surrendered mantle of government in a transition of power made with generosity from the victor, and stoic dignity on the part of the vanquished.

Within seconds of Mr Blair

Bouquets poured in — each one subjected to minute security examination. Ben Macintyre reports from Downing Street on new triumph, new danger

setting off on the motorcade to accept the office of Prime Minister, he and his wife Cherie sent security officers scrambling when they made an unscheduled stop and leapt into an ecstatic crowd of their Islington neighbours. Mr Blair's car had rolled 30 ft towards Downing Street when the couple told the driver to stop and began shaking hands with the wildly cheering

throng. The spectators were delighted, the men detailed to guard the Blairs rather less so. Seconds later, a Special Branch officer had gathered up Mrs Blair and all but bundled her back into the car. She appeared ruffled — whether from the evident emotion of the occasion or from her first experience of the massive security now surrounding her and her hus-

band remained unclear. In the park next to the Blairs' home in Islington the police patrolled all night. The bouquets began to flood in — each one minutely examined by security officials.

After walking along Downing Street and greeting a crowd of party workers so excitedly overjoyed that it seemed the new Prime Minister and his wife might be dragged into their midst, Mr Blair paid glowing tribute to his beaten opponent for "his courage over the last few days and the manner of his leaving — the essential decency of which is the mark of man".

Two hours earlier an equal-

## CHILDREN RETURN TO NO 10

For the first time in nearly 50 years, a Prime Minister's children were preparing to move into 10 Downing Street yesterday. Euan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn Blair, 9, were given their first glimpse of the living quarters and allowed to inspect their new bedrooms. They will be the first children to live there since Clement Attlee's family left in 1951. The Blair children attended a lunch at Downing Street to celebrate their father's victory.

ly gracious Mr Major had stood on the same spot, wished his successor well and announced his intention to hand over stewardship of his shattered party. "When the curtain falls, it is time to get off the stage and that is what I

propose to do," he said. In a characteristic touch, Mr Major added that he would not speak for long, as pressing engagements awaited: lunch at the Oval, and an afternoon watching cricket with his family. He shook the hands of the

attending policemen, comfortingly patted that of Brian Ma-whinney, the Tory party chairman, and departed the home and position he has occupied for 6½ years.

The Queen, the formation of a Cabinet and the challenges of government awaited Mr Blair, but he would not be prevented from greeting his neighbours and well-wishers — that, too, was perhaps a mark of the man.

Their trip to Buckingham Palace completed, the invitation to form an administration proffered by Her Majesty and accepted, Mr and Mrs Blair stopped their car in Whitehall and walked to Number 10

clapping, double-handed, the hands that reached from behind the packed barriers on either side of Downing Street.

Looking pale, but with passionate fervour, Mr Blair sounded again the keynotes of his campaign and emphasised the "huge responsibility that is on me and the great trust" reflected by his huge electoral mandate. He was interrupted by deafening cheers as he pledged to "govern in the interests of all our people, the whole of this nation".

The Blairs gathered their three children and entered Downing Street to meet the applauding staff. The door closed. A new chapter opened.

## Welcome to the club where nobody cares who you are

YOU'RE IN. You've done it. Everybody back home is proud of you. Nobody at Westminster knows who you are.

Mr. Mrs. Miss or Ms New MP, if you learn nothing else, you are self-employed. Don't wait for someone to give you something useful to do. Nobody ever will.

Neither the Whips, nor Millbank Tower nor Conservative Central Office nor Cowley Street are your employers. They know surprisingly little about you, and care even less.

If you are a Labour victor in a supposedly safe Tory seat, then the shock of winning, and the dilemma of telling them at work that you aren't coming back, are about to be followed by the humiliation of discovering that nobody in the Labour Party at Westminster has the least idea who you are. This may be shaming. Even more shaming will be the discovery, in two years' time, that they still don't know who you are.

Arriving for the first time at the House of Commons is sometimes compared with arriving as a new boy or girl at school. The comparison is too kind. It's far scarier than that. I would compare it with being thrown into prison.

At school there are teachers with your welfare at heart, and parents to take you away if it all goes wrong. There is also a course of study, with which to occupy yourself. There will be a reading list, and a syllabus, and advice on the school uniform. But in



So now you've been elected. But at Westminster you are just another MP and no one has a clue what to do with you, says Matthew Parris

prison and at Westminster nobody has your interest at heart and you cannot run away home to Mum and Dad.

Nor is there anything to do — unless you want to — nor anyone to tell you how to do it. The clerks and officers of the House, who regard MPs as self-important plankton, will smirk and condescend, the policemen will learn your name, and nobody else will take the least notice of you.

If the other prisoners beat you up there's little point whining to the warders — or the whips. They will learn to recognise you, eventually, and if you give them trouble they will hurt you back. Apart from that, you are of no use or interest to them and must sink or swim on your own.

To be honest, they would rather you sank: obedient nomenklatura suit them best and, so long as your depression does not lead to anything embarrassing like suicide, they are content for you to languish. Your chances of a job in the next two years are close to zero.

Accept, then, that you're on your own. Accept that all your

new colleagues are, too. Understand that to make waves you have to be prepared to make trouble.

You're on parade. As the returning officer read out his declaration, your private life suddenly acquired a new status. It became a matter of public interest. Have you lied about your O-levels? The Sun may find you out. When did you sneeze behind the bicycle sheds at school in 1978? She or he may soon have a story to sell. That attractive young thing who returns your glance at a constituency do... beware. He or she may be wired for sound by the News of the World.

Do not snap at the bus conductor: it could be right round the constituency within weeks. Watch the speed limits: how would a traffic conviction look in the local paper? Your principled stand in the House on the settlement rights of the inhabitants of St Helena will pass in your constituency almost without comment, but those stains on your trousers: people will notice, you know; people will talk. When did you last shave? Is your tie tasteful?

Are your flies done up? Is your skirt caught in your knickers? Are there holes in your shoes? Do you want people to whisper: "She looked a mess?"

Talk too animatedly to Mrs Green and you may make a lifelong enemy of her rival for the chair of the ward branch, Mr Brown. Attend the Methodist Church and you will raise eyebrows among the Anglicans. Attend the Anglican Church and you may lose support among the Methodists. Attend no church at all, and some people will notice.

Another glass of brandy? It would be nice, but you know what they'll say. A third pint at the pub on Sunday? Better not. Eat that dreadful Bakewell pudding the influential and touchy Mrs Grey made it. Never swear in Ashford-in-the-Water. Never be without a handkerchief. Never break wind in the presence of your constituents: the story will become a legend.

Yet, though it's been a hard slog and though there are years — maybe a lifetime — of hard slog to come, still your achievement is in a different order of things from a promotion at work, because they can't take this away from you.

Soon you will be standing at that dispatch box and taking that oath of allegiance. Then you place after your name those two small, glorious letters: "MP". Call it vainglorious, call it silly, but somehow that swells the breast as surely as will anything you actually do with the job.

## Finchley takes winner by surprise

By JOANNA BAILE

RUDI VIS admits that he is still in "absolute shock" after winning Margaret Thatcher's former stronghold of Finchley, north London, with a 15.1 per cent swing to Labour.

Like many Labour candidates in supposedly "safe" Conservative seats, the 56-year-old Dutch-born university lecturer never expected to win and says his first feeling as the result came in at 3am was not delight but one of distinct trouble.

He explained: "I never really planned what I would do if I was elected because I did not think it would happen," he said. "I believe that people should be full-time MPs but I have many commitments which I cannot



Vis and Suffling: "no idea" what happens next

easily abandon. It's going to be very difficult to sort things out."

Mr Vis, a principal economics lecturer at the University of East London, feels he cannot abandon his students until the end of term. He is also a councillor for Barnet, north London, where there is no overall

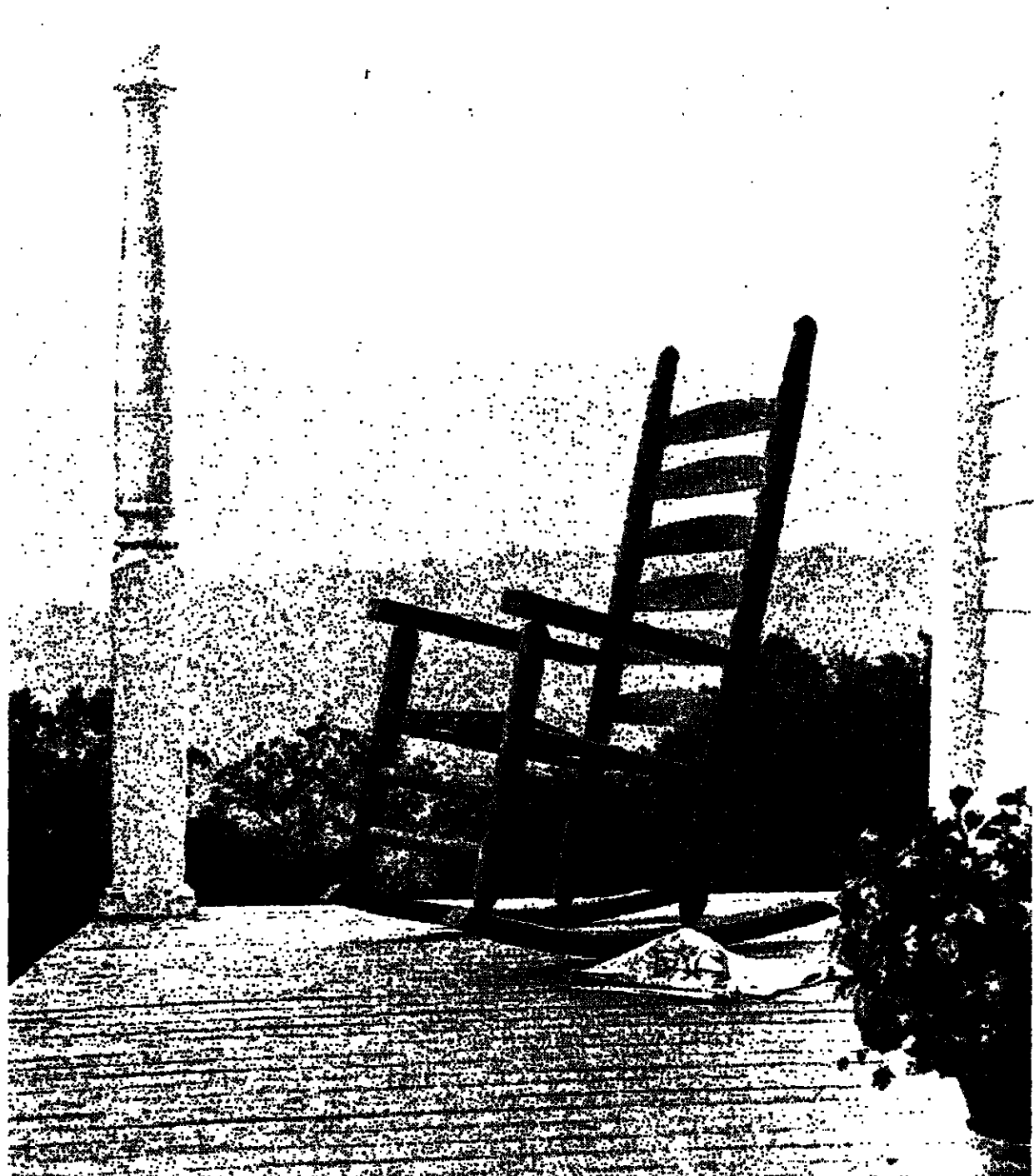
control. He said: "Another Labour councillor in Barnet is in the same position and if we both resign we would have a minority. I really don't know what we will do."

Jacqui Suffling, 34, his partner of ten years, is equally stunned at the prospect of being an MP's "wife". A full-time mother

with twin boys aged 2½, she admitted that she and Mr Vis had never really discussed the practicalities of winning the seat.

The couple are overwhelmed at the thought that once "true-blue" Finchley has become a Labour seat for the first time despite boundary changes taking in parts of Hendon which, according to Mr Vis, should not have disadvantaged the Tories.

Mr Vis, who has never stood for Parliament before, said he had "no idea" what would happen next. "I have received thousands of pieces of information from Tony Blair's office over the past few weeks but not one about what I am supposed to do now. I hope they send it soon."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



# Inside Tony Blair's trusted circle

TWENTY-TWO hours before the election, the Labour high command was thrown into a perplexed state by the political situation. In the vast open space of the second floor of Millbank Tower, Peter Mandelson stood up from his desk and walked to a television set stationed at the top of a pillar. The Labour master of media wanted to stand, closer to it, as though peering at it from a shorter range might somehow make the news clearer. A few yards away, around a bank of desks and filing cabinets, Philip Gould clutched reams of polling data in one hand, a telephone in another, and darted about.

These Labour politicians had made every preparation for a struggle to the death, unto the final hour. The anxiety of impending defeat had been traced into their psychology so that it had become almost a second nature. They had learnt, time and again, that the arrival of the sensation that they might be reaching the safe haven was the ultimate signal of doom. Good news, especially close to election day, had the effect of triggering their instinctive dread. The result of this almost hormonal reaction was Tony Blair's statement the following day: Britain is not a landslide country. He was sounding more than a cautionary note to ward off complacency. His line of the day was an oddly unfiltered observation, giving vent to the collective unconscious of his circle.

Everyone in Millbank seemed to make a point of reassuring each other that all was calm. Typically, the remark was accompanied by the shaking of the head, nervous laughter and wide, surprised eyes. Somehow, they felt that their calmness might undo the arduous efforts to reform the Labour Party and to secure victory; their tranquillity might prompt them to drop their guard; their equanimity might prevent them from making the final cut and thrust. They worried that their own mood might betray them.

The team assembled in Millbank worked minute by minute to dominate the political environment. An editor at a newspaper was spoken to sharply about the character of an anti-Blair headline that had not yet seen print. A Labour figure who desperately wanted to voice his own controversial views was ad-



**The American journalist Sidney Blumenthal on the final days of the Labour leadership's pursuit of power**

monished to stay on message. The churning was constant.

But, from the Tories, there was nothing of consequence demanding a rapid response. For all the Labourites' plans, they now faced the one thing they had not counted on: the implosion of the opposition. The formidable political operation that had whipped Labour at every turn had turned on itself. Major's assemblage of Brutuses was the obverse of Blair's circle. The last few days of the Tory campaign resembled nothing so much as the dramatic conclusion of *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*, in which the Confederates wrestle in the dust while their gold blows away. Too busy grappling with each other, the Conservatives managed to snipe at Labour only as an afterthought. The Labour campaign staffers wondered how they could create a compelling story in the absence of any meaningful partisan clash. The anticlimax was the unexpected climax.

The Millbank operation was organised along lines learnt from the campaigns of Bill Clinton. A flow chart depicting the 1992 Clinton campaign and its organisational method of responding to Republican attacks, in fact, was openly posted in the room. But the obvious application of the American model was something of a miscue in explaining the inner circle gathered around Tony Blair for the campaign.

Millbank was more than

the political side of new Labour's modernisation. It also represented a physical compression of Blair's world. The second floor was an ingathering of many of the significant people in his life. Rather than coming and going through his office, phoning in or meeting him at this place or that, they were all concentrated at one point.

Blair's inner group is neither a collection of functionaries nor a sect, but closer to a family. The titles people held in the campaign, or hold in the Government, only barely begin to indicate who is really who. Mandelson, for example, is not just a junior minister. The personal assistant, Anji Hunter, is more than an assistant: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, more than his lofty position; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, more than a manager of the economy.

Blair's circle is a tight unit with respected demarcations of roles, but it does not operate like a standard bureaucracy. Every member has helped to advance Blair's victory, but while the leader is paid deference, none feels inhibited from strongly arguing his or her point of view. Blair is the central figure around which everything revolves, but what flows around him is not a court. Members do not rate their status by a fluctuating market of favour. No one is lavished with attention one day and banished to outer darkness the next. Caprice never enters. The circle around Blair has been building since he was a teenager, and it has been a steady group over the two and a half years since his election as party leader.

The backstory, as they say in Hollywood, is essential. Anji Hunter is Blair's oldest friend, who attended a girls' school near Blair's. They both had rebellious streaks and from the start became each other's confidants. She is his private focus group on Middle England, but that understates her position. She also offers Blair acute and instant judgments on who to see and when, how to react to breaking political events and how to handle hot situations. The most important thing about their relationship is that it has never changed.

Alexander Irvine is a Scottish lord, an old Labour hand and was the best friend of John Smith. Blair was his law



More than a press secretary: the intensely loyal Alastair Campbell, right, a member of the inner circle, pushing the party line to a journalist

pupil at The Temple. It was there that Blair fell in love with Lord Irvine's other pupil, Cherie Booth. When Smith died and Blair was catapulted into the leadership, the relationship was altered. The pupil had risen above his mentor. But, with Blair's rise, Irvine was allowed to become a complete moderniser.

Irvine remains the tutor, still called almost daily for his incisive mind and prudence. Blair trusts him implicitly. Smith's death was a crossroads. While Irvine was plunged into mourning, he was also plunged into helping Blair to manage his campaign for party leader. His putative opponent was Gordon Brown, who is Blair's fraternal political twin. Both arrived in Parliament after the Labour disaster of 1983, shared an office and began plotting the party's change. Brown was slightly older politically and intellectually, and with an air of gravity. But Blair's effort to seize the party leadership was so swift and sweeping that Brown swallowed his ambition and never even ran for the

job he thought should be his. He is the older brother who is surpassed, but reconciled.

Brown, however, may retain some suspicion of another member of the circle, Peter Mandelson, who, as the party's media strategist and moderniser, gave early star billing to both Blair and Brown. Mandelson is an hereditary loyalist and partisan — his grandfather was the deputy prime minister Herbert Morrison — and in the leadership contest he tipped his loyalty to Blair. Brown is a Calvinist to whom nothing comes easily. He sometimes looks sideways at Mandelson's political fluidity. It is a case of the assiduous and the sinuous. Mandelson, however, is embraced by Blair for more than his devotion.

He is loved by Blair, for his wit, charm, frankness, and warmth. In the Blair household, he is Uncle Peter.

Philip Gould, the political strategist and keeper of the polls, has a long history with Blair in the struggle to change the party. Like Blair, Brown and Mandelson, Gould was a

supporter of Neil Kinnock but more modern. Gould has a fertile mind, impatience with smugness and the most direct experience with Clinton campaigns. (In Millbank, Gould shared his desk with Stan Greenberg, the President's pollster in 1992, whom he recruited.) Sent into the wilderness by Smith, who regarded the methods of contemporary campaigns as black arts, Gould was returned to the fold by Blair.

Alastair Campbell, the press secretary, is a former political editor of *The Daily Mirror* who joined Blair's outfit in 1994. He and his partner, Fiona Millar, are intense loyalists and close to the Blairs as a couple.

Jonathan Powell is an hereditary civil servant who was introduced to Blair by Mandelson. One brother was Margaret Thatcher's chief of staff; another brother produced advertising for Labour campaigns, working with Gould. Powell gave up a posting in the British Embassy in Washington to work for Blair. His job at the Embassy

required that he travel with the Clinton campaign in 1992. He brought with him a portfolio of contacts.

But Powell won his way into the circle by his utter professionalism and loyalty.

Blair's circle has been intact for far longer than Clinton's was when he was elected. Only a few members of Clinton's entourage were intimate friends of his. For the most part, they were political operatives assembled for the campaign. Their binding experience was the Democratic Party primaries, a relentless series of tightly spaced elections, in state after state, under the glare of a sensationalist media. For Labour, the binding experience has been the long campaign to reform the party. This, more than the six-week campaign that has just ended, was the equivalent of American primaries.

In Millbank, Mandelson sat next to Hunter. Gould was in an alcove behind them.

Brown was lodged in the next office. Irvine wended his way among the desks. Up a short flight of stairs, Campbell

guarded Blair's door. And near the back of the room, Powell plotted the early events of the Blair government. His brain was assigned in advance to 10 Downing Street.

The day before the election, the entourage dispersed from Millbank; late on election night they reunited amid the throng at Royal Festival Hall. As Tory after Tory succumbed, full-throated cheers went up as though from a crowd at a Roman arena. None of Blair's circle had expected to win the largest majority since the Second World War. Surrounded now by that majority, well-wishers and those attracted by the scent of power, this circle had been through almost everything, together. Other rings might form around them, but this one is impenetrable. None of them would return to Millbank, though it would remain an operational centre. The next day they moved to a place they had never been before: the Government.

□ Sidney Blumenthal is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*

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## Labour's puritanical tendency kept fizz bottled to the end

IN 1992, just a few days after the last general election, I left Britain to work as a foreign correspondent for *The Times*, first in New York and latterly in Paris. Four weeks ago I came back as a temporary addition to *The Times*' election team. In the five intervening years I had set foot in the country only rarely and briefly.

The perspective of two elections so far apart may be a peculiar one, but it has proved a remarkable vantage point from which to survey the utter transformation of the Labour Party, the seismic shift in the electoral landscape and this very changed nation.

When I departed Britain in 1992 Labour was a discredited, self-recriminatory shambles. From the moment I climbed aboard the Tony Blair battle bus, it was clear that the rawness of the Kinnock years, that musty rancour and air of defeatism that I remembered so vividly, had been quite scrubbed away. The crossants were almond-flavoured; the itinerary minute-exact; the attendants polite but firm; the windows on Mr Blair's bus, rolling along a few hundred yards ahead of us, were tinted.

Throughout our weeks on the road, Mr Blair always remained a figure in the middle-distance, carefully held just beyond reach. Like a bottle of champagne, you sensed the fizz building behind the glass but could never see it or judge it until, on Thursday night, it exploded.

The Labour strategy was simple and inspired: orchestrated boredom. The buses went to 65 constituencies, covering 9,000 miles, religiously lowering expectations and sowing seeds of uncertainty to ensure the largest possible crop of votes. This was negative campaigning of a new sort. No errors, no risks, no complacency. It was the singular achievement of new Labour to saturate itself so thoroughly in its own caution, that when the time came to celebrate many appeared to have forgotten how.

The press followed Mr Blair up and down the country, but we were so busy waiting for wobble, we barely heard the rumble of the juggernaut. We listened to jazz bands and stand-up comics. Mr Blair met the people, and we watched from behind metal pens, his words piped back to us by mobile microphone. We got to see all the changing colours of Mr Blair's campaign, from red to pastel to purple, but never the whites of his eyes.

For accompanying journalists the campaign was frustrating. There was not a leak, not a gaffe, not a fumble. Save for a bout of verbal jousting over devolution in Glasgow — the one time Mr Blair seemed rattled — there was no pack questioning, no impromptu doorstepping or off-the-coffee that is food and drink to a travelling press pack, and anathema to the spin-doctor.

We learnt, with some envy, of the



**Ben Macintyre on the political transformation evident since the Kinnock era**

hilarities aboard the Conservative campaign buses, of the easy access to John Major and the gallows humour. We were trained to be more puritan. There was no whiff of illegal substances on the Blair bus. There were not many jokes either. After a few days, it seemed, the strait-laced atmosphere was beginning to rub off on us. The slovenly assortment of hacks grew oddly tidy. Several had haircuts. I bought a tie.

Fed on a diet of pure spin and squidgy rolls, we became lean, a little starved and faintly paranoid. In the middle of one flight Mr Blair, usually confined to the front of the plane, appeared in our midst and was immediately set upon. "I did actually want to go to the loo," he said. After he had returned to his seat, one weary photographer wondered: "Should we go and take a picture of the bathroom to see if he's wiped the hand basin, like you're supposed to?"

We searched Mr Blair's face for signs of uncertainty, of stress. I saw none, only adrenalin fighting fatigue, and tight-lipped resolution. If the spinners were controlling us, Mr Blair was controlling himself. Mr Blair's speeches were models of terse emphasis, hammering away at the same themes, day after day. He bored us to distraction but I strongly doubt he bored anyone else.

The Labour leader repeatedly referred to his re-created party as a "disciplined and efficient fighting force" and there was something of the military forced march in this experience. Humourless, impersonal, rigid and repetitive, the Labour campaign was, nonetheless, a masterpiece: consistent, crisp and relentless. There was no real story, so the press had no choice but to pass on the messages, contained in simple bite-sized lumps, easy to remember, painfully hard to forget. The day after the election, I

cannot think of a single memorable Tory slogan. Mr Blair's tom-tom phrases, delivered with identical earnestness at every stop, I shall carry to the grave. "Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime," we chanted, brainlessly, at the back of the bus.

My head spinning with spin, I took time off and wandered the country. Away from people telling me what to write, when to eat and always to "hurry up" I found a very different atmosphere from the one I had experienced in 1992.

In my five years away a new looseness had entered Britain's political joints, creating a kaleidoscope that would resolve itself into the Labour landslide but which, from a distance, seemed to dance and mutate before the eyes. I found Labour-voting Cornish fishermen sharing a bed in the Referendum Party with the littlest of Little Englanders in plus-fours, old-style shire Tories speaking the language of new Labour like natives; people of every political shade anxious about our future in Europe.

The pundits were right, in a way, for it was those famous "shy Tories" who won it. They were shy not of telling us that they secretly planned to vote Conservative, but of declaring how viscerally they loathed the Tory party and wanted to see it humiliated and dead.

We still stage better and madder elections than anyone else. I watched Kenneth Clarke sipping whisky in a Welsh distillery while being lectured by a seven-foot plastic monk. I smoked cigarettes with the Speaker of the House of Commons and saw John Prescott trying to cuddle a bullock. John Redwood wore a white coat and a funny look: several people wore chicken suits; everyone wore a silly hat. I had forgotten quite how pronounced is our national talent for eccentricity, how much we love to lower our dignity. Perhaps that was what had made the Blair campaign seem so novel, almost foreign: the avid protection of dignity, the studious avoidance of eccentricity.

As the Royal Festival Hall in London suddenly transformed itself into a vast discotheque and the rugby player Brian Moore began dancing alongside Trevor Nunn to the tune of *Things Can Only Get Better*, a group of American political consultants could be found in avid discussion. If Mr Blair had taken his cue from the two Clinton campaigns, they said, after this week America would be looking back across the Atlantic.

Eighteen years, five more years: six weeks of campaigning, 72 hours to save the Union: 24 hours left — the countdown had been agonisingly slow but when the change finally came it arrived, somehow, unexpectedly. A group of Labour campaign workers, still wearing dazed and shocked expressions, stood by the Thames and stared into the dawn.



# Have faith in Blair, urges Anglican ally



All, in his view, were underpinned by friendship. "When a person is in a state of friendship, two things happen. They choose to be in that state, so there is freedom of choice. And they are equal, because they accept each other as equals."

The Blairs visited Mr Thomson in Australia in 1982, shortly after they married, and again with Gordon Brown in 1990, when Mr Thomson headed the Anglican University College in Adelaide. Mr Thomson and his wife, Helen, paid a return visit in June 1995.

"Friendship is the highest form of human existence and is so important in the fare of human existence that it requires no justification beyond itself," he said. "You actually know God at the moment of friendship." It was this friendship that made him want to be in Britain at this crucial time and he took up a temporary post at St Luke's, Holloway.

In his victory speech, Mr Blair spoke of his desire to apply values such as common sense. Mr Thomson echoed that. "We have got to come to a common mind about the way we think, about what common sense represents."

The notion of community, he said, should not be confused with collectivism. "Collectivism is using people as things, not as persons. State socialism is the absolute example of that."

Mr Blair, he said, "holds all the values of socialism that most people in society would hold. But one of the things socialism never really came to grips with was the entrepreneurial spirit." He quoted the parable of the talents, "If you hide your shilling under the ground . . . There is nothing wrong with having life and having it more abundantly."



## Howard writes

measures such as the token nationalisation of the Bank of England in 1946 or the state rescue, with generous compensation for their owners, of the bankrupt coalmines in 1947. The tougher issues it tended to leave until far too late. By the time it went before the electorate again in 1950 it had not succeeded in taking the steel industry into public ownership. And it had not managed to do so because of the root-and-branch opposition of the *hierarchical* *needs*.

Nationalisation may today be a dead issue, but the acid test of Mr Blair's own much proclaimed "radicalism" will lie in what, with his enormous popular and parliamentary majority behind him, he resolves to do about reforming the Lords. If he ducks and weaves on the question — and keeps the issue of abolishing the hereditary element (a pledge he had inherited from John Smith) out of his first

**ENT PAY**

Ministers were entitled to basic MP's salary of £102,000 (58,557) last July (nets)

£102,000 (58,557)
£61,120 (£43,991)
£31,748 (£31,125)
£24,095 (£23,623)

From yesterday, government ministers were entitled to the following pay (excluding basic MP's salary of £43,860) after an agreement by MPs last July (previous pay levels in brackets)

Prime Minister	£102,000 (£8,557)
Cabinet minister	£61,120 (£43,991)
Minister of State	£31,748 (£31,125)
Junior ministers	£24,095 (£23,623)

The mirror may probably be especially pressing for the Labour Government since, wisely or not, it has already bound itself hand and foot to the economic questions that normally dominate a new administration's arrival in power. The international money markets did not bat an eyelid at yesterday's transformation of the British position, and that is not because what they saw in front of them was a government of Labour men and Tory measures. How could they detect anything else when, well ahead of the election, Gordon Brown had already decided to underwrite for two whole years Kenneth Clarke's revenue and public expenditure forecasts?

Above anything else, Mr Blair now needs to show that he is not shy of causing offence – and if the first group to be offended should turn out to be those whom Lloyd George once immortally called “a body of some 500 men chosen at random from amongst the ranks of the unemployed”, then so much the better for those of us who actually aspire to a sense of history. It would be a pretty poor lookout, after all, if a freshly minted Labour Prime Minister in 1997 proved to lack the guts even of a liberal radical in 1909.

The Rev Peter Thomson met Tony Blair at Oxford. They have been friends ever since, and Mr Thomson travelled from Australia to be here for the campaign.

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# Few hearts brave enough to challenge devolution

**NOWHERE** does the lack of a credible opposition to the new Labour Government pose more urgent questions than on devolution to Scotland and Wales.

Here is a major piece of legislation, fundamentally altering the constitution of the United Kingdom, which would, in other circumstances, have been subjected to ferocious debate on the floor of the House of Commons.

It will be the first and most far-reaching of Labour's new Bills. Party managers have already indicated that in order to get their Scottish and Welsh referendum proposals onto the statute books within a year, they plan to deal with them as they would any non-constitutional Bill, with a second reading on the floor of the Commons and the committee stage taken by a standing committee of MPs.

Normally, this would have invited robust opposition and intense scrutiny of what is by any standards a Bill of major dimensions. But there are no Scottish or Welsh Tory MPs to do the job: no Michael Forsyth, with his detailed knowledge of Scottish funding, and



**Magnus Linklater** argues that the opposition to Labour is too weak to challenge proposals for home rule in Scotland and Wales

his barrack-room debating style; no Malcolm Rifkind, with his legal expertise; no Ian Lang, with his Board of Trade background.

The nearest thing to a Conservative opposition will have to come from William Hague, the former Welsh Secretary, and, perhaps, David Maclean, the right-wing Scot who sought re-election in Penrith and the Border.

But will even they want to do it? Already there are indications that the remaining Conservative MPs in the Commons may not wish to oppose a measure which has so clearly been endorsed by the electorates in Wales and Scotland.

The Tories' robust defence of the Union in the election

campaign contributed in large measure to their humiliation in Scotland and Wales. Why court yet more unpopularity by delaying or obstructing a reform which is urgently wanted?

That leaves the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru to do the job. Yesterday, the SNP leader Alex Salmond laid claim to the title of official opposition party in Scotland.

Despite the fact that his party gained only two seats, giving a total of six, he argued that the 22 per cent popular support it won gave it the moral and constitutional right to the role. The Liberal Democrats laughed that off.

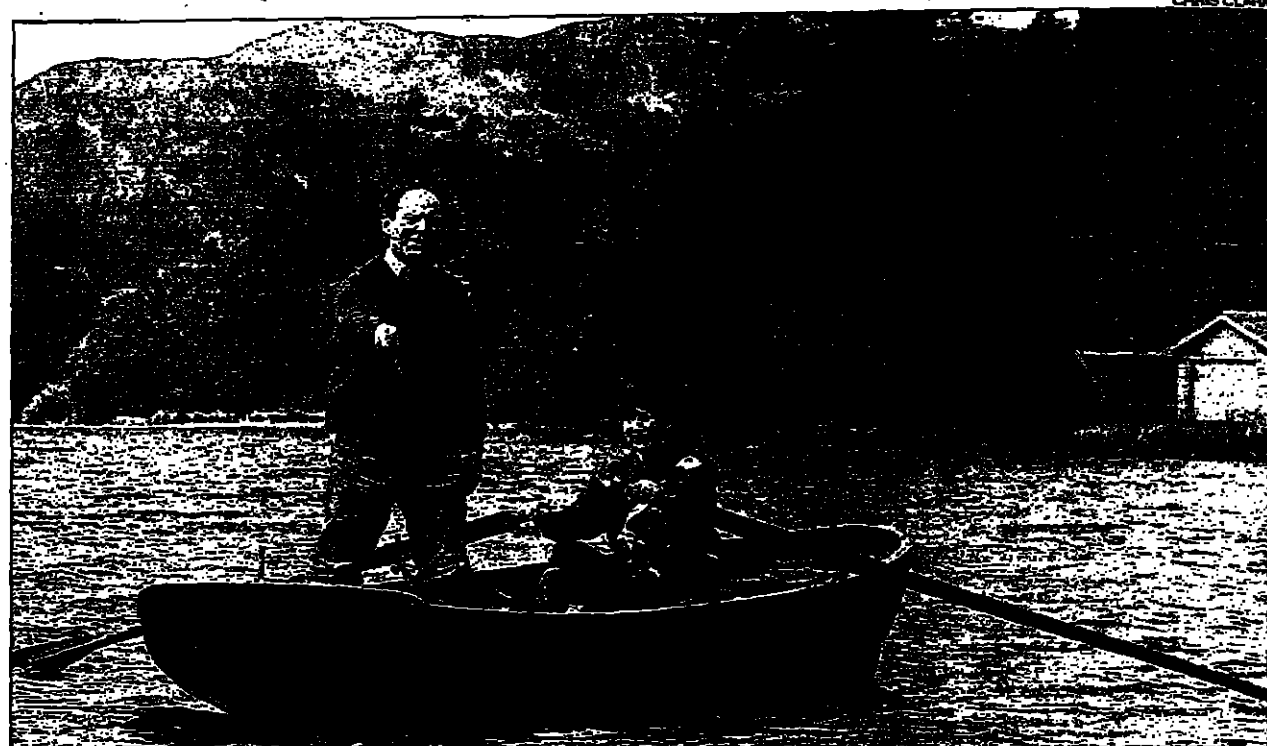
They pointed out that, despite having won only 12 per cent of the popular vote, they

had ten seats. Jim Wallace, their Scottish leader, made clear that they were Her Majesty's Opposition in Scotland. It is a nice irony that a party so wedded to reforming the voting system should be using the first-past-the-post system to argue their case.

None of this provides a proper opposition at Westminster. The SNP and Plaid Cymru have said they will unite to demand a multi-option referendum, with independence added to the ballot paper. The Liberal Democrats will try to have the second of Labour's two questions in Scotland removed, the one demanding tax-raising powers for a Scottish parliament.

But none of them has a chance of altering Labour's position, and they know it. Neither will want to delay the Bill for fear of enraging their countrymen. Its rapid passage is guaranteed and its far-reaching proposals will be unscrutinised in any detail.

Unless the Lords step in: Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former Lord Chancellor, has already indicated, in a letter to *The Times*, that he believes it to be the duty of the Upper



**Gone fishing:** the defeat of Michael Forsyth removes a critic of devolution plans. His announcement that he is leaving politics will give him and his wife Susan more time to spend on Loch Ard, near their Aberfoyle home

House to do the Commons's job for it. So important is the legislation, he argues, that the Lords would be failing in its duty if it did not subject it to line-by-line examination. He maintains that the Salisbury Convention, which prevents the Lords from frustrating legislation which has won the support of the electorate,

would not apply. But he, too, runs the risk of outraging public opinion.

So comprehensive has been the endorsement of the devolution proposals that the Lords might well hesitate before delaying their introduction. Their Lordships will not wish to run the risk of hastening their own demise. Nothing

would play more into the hands of the reformers than an obstructive House opposing a popular measure.

It was Mr Forsyth, in the final day of campaigning, who predicted that a hostile Treasury would insist on clawing back up to £2.5 billion from Scotland's budget once a parliament was in place. It was he

who said that to remove a Scottish Secretary would deprive Scotland of its voice in the Cabinet. And it was he who predicted that devolution would finish Scotland as a prosperous nation.

Big issues, big questions. But where will they be confronted, and where will they be asked?

# Forsyth deals with defeat by quitting politics

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

**MICHAEL FORSYTH**, the former Secretary of State for Scotland, announced yesterday that he was standing down from political life after his sensational defeat at Stirling early yesterday.

"It is very unlikely that for the foreseeable future I will be involved in politics, although I will remain a member of the party here in Scotland and will do anything I can to assist in advancing the Unionist cause," he said.

His decision, which followed a quiet morning spent fishing for trout near his home in Aberfoyle, came as the Tory party contemplated its "obliteration" in Scotland. Mr Forsyth used the word himself yesterday.

"It has been a very bad day for the Conservatives," he said, urging the party not to abandon its principles but to rally round the Unionist cause. Despite the fact that this policy helped to consign the party to the wilderness, leaving it with no representatives north of the border — no MPs, no MEPs, not one local council — he was in no mood for compromise.

"You do not go into an election campaign driven by convictions and principle and then immediately afterwards say, 'Everything we told you was wrong'," he said. "I believe passionately that a tax-raising parliament will damage Scotland's public funding, will damage the Union, and lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom."

He repeated his promise that he would not serve in what he has called "a pigmy parliament" and said that the Scots would soon realise that they had opted for an unworkable system.

His valedictory message to the nation was thus unchanged, but desperately bleak for those he has left to pick up the pieces. What he

was announcing in effect was: dump the party's unionist principles at your peril; stick to the status quo; have nothing to do with those who advocate the devolutionist tendency. For a party that has stuck to these policies, only to see itself wiped out, it did not leave much to work on. But already

some other messages are beginning to filter through.

Scottish Tories who hold less extreme views are beginning to set out a strategy on which to rebuild. It starts at the grass roots. They recognise that without any council representation, their task is well-nigh impossible. The first step will be to rebuild these local structures.

They will begin to stand back from extreme pro-Unionism, while emphasising the separateness of the party's Scottish organisation from its English counterpart. David McLetchie, the organisation's president, said they would look hard at Labour's White Paper on devolution before deciding what final view to take — a far less hard-line approach than Mr Forsyth's.

When it comes to campaigning on the Government's referendum Bill, they are likely to restrict themselves to pointing out anomalies in the legislation rather than opposing a "Yes" vote root and branch.

## STORIES SCOTLAND

Then, if Scots do vote with a double "yes" this autumn — to a Scottish parliament and to tax-raising powers — they may contemplate the great U-Turn that would place the party back in the centre of Scottish political life.

Labour is watching this emerging debate with the keenest interest. Its party managers are likely to invite Tory waverers to support rather than to oppose a Scottish parliament, so as to gain that part in the mainstream of Scottish politics. The system of proportional representation to which Labour has agreed would give the Tories a healthy number of Scottish MPs in Edinburgh. It is a tempting prospect.

All of this would doubtless have Mr Forsyth rotating in the grave of his political career. Perhaps, like Dracula, he will push open the lid of the coffin and return to terrorise the natives — to say nothing of his party. For the time being, he is content as he said himself, to "get a life again".

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Politicians who hijacked campaign from Conservative Central Office are blamed for poll disaster

# Tory strategists have the knives out for Clarke

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE post-mortem examination into the Tory election disaster begins, the knives are out at Conservative Central Office for the politicians, led by Kenneth Clarke, who hijacked the campaign.

Conservative strategists disclosed yesterday that they knew the campaign was doomed to failure from the start because of the Government's record since 1992. "It would have taken a miracle," one said.

The campaign was marked by bouts of infighting between John Major and Central Office over a series of negative advertisements aimed at Tony Blair. Lord Saatchi, head of the advertising team, was so taken aback at his work being turned down that he blamed Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. "He could not bring himself to criticise the Prime Minister, whom he liked, for turning down his work," an advertising source said. "The politicians had taken over from the experts."

Dr Mawhinney was accused by some of his detractors of taking too long to make



John Major leaving No 10 for the last time

a decision. In 1992, strategy decisions were made by groups of six people. This time, the chairman's meetings often had 20 people around the table. "There was too much trial by committee," another official said.

Neil Hamilton is also an object of loathing at Central Office. As sleaze dominated the early part of the campaign, an increasingly desperate Dr Mawhinney sent Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Union, the voluntary wing of

the party, to Talton to try to persuade the local party officers to dump Mr Hamilton. When that appeal failed, Dr Mawhinney made a dramatic 11th hour appeal to Mr Hamilton days before nominations closed. It was in vain.

John Major's decision to put Europe at the heart of the campaign was warmly endorsed by Central Office but opposed by Kenneth Clarke. It exposed a weakness in the Tory argument. "Major was arguing against a federal Europe but in favour of wait and see on a single currency, the sacred cow of the federalists. The message was confused," a Central Office insider said.

It is Mr Clarke for whom most Central Office venom is reserved. His refusal to rule out a single currency was at the heart of the Tory revolt over Europe. He was described as a malign influence by strategists because he poured cold water on European issues John Major and Dr Mawhinney believed could be turned against Labour.

Lord Saatchi, one of the



Norma Major, flanked by her children, Elizabeth and James, leaving No 10 yesterday after her husband had resigned as Tory party leader

"three musketeers", had earlier in the year argued for a big campaign, backed by Central Office, targeted at Labour's support for the social chapter. But the plan never made it to Mr Major's desk. Besides, the former chancellor would have vetoed it. Posters, advertisements, and campaigns strong on anti-Brussels rhetoric went the same way. "There was no sense in pursuing European strategies because even if [Clarke] was persuaded to come on board, he would not

have endorsed the message," an official said.

Relations between Mr Clarke and Mr Major, not good before the campaign began, were worse by the end, largely because Mr Clarke thought the Tory Right presented more of a threat to Britain than new Labour.

Problems beset the most expensive Tory campaign in history from day one. Mr Major's campaign itinerary, which had been prepared months in advance, was constantly rewritten after the first week. A photo-call with the racing car that won the Australian Grand Prix was a shambles: the wheels had come off. The Prime Minister was photographed going through the doorway of a hardware store in Devon that bore the word "Sleaz".

However, the practical difficulties paled into insignificance compared with the party's private polls, which showed that it would be hard to win. After ten days of

campaigning, Dr Mawhinney had virtually conceded defeat. "It was always going to be a big struggle to compete with the mismanagement of the last five years over the ERM, BSE, Europe, sleaze and the infighting," the official said. "Morale was low among grassroots activists. The disastrous local authority election results had wiped out the Tory presence in whole across swathes of the country. 'We could not fight a proper campaign.'"

In the end, Europe backfired on the Tories. Central Office maintains it was not bounced into moving it to the centre of the campaign. But 48 hours after Mr Major's successful pre-emptive strike at the midweek press conference, the good work was undone when he pledged a free vote on a single currency. "He took us all by surprise," especially Mr Clarke, who twisted the knife on BBC radio by disclosing that he had not been consulted. The strategists knew the game was up.

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## Relaxed Hague calls for calm

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WILLIAM HAGUE had quite possibly the coolest head in his party yesterday. To witness his relaxed demeanour and charming evasiveness during the wait to hear that he had won his Yorkshire seat, one might have suspected he had leadership ambitions.

Arriving in Northallerton for the count for his large rural Richmond seat yesterday he looked fresh despite a long night putting on a brave face to the media about Conservative losses. He said it was important to keep a sense of humour.

He had clearly spent the night from London preparing a mantra which he chanted when asked about the succession: "There is a strong case for a period of cool and calm reflection. We need to take time to assess what we have learnt after the past 24 hours."

Then the announcement came through that John Major was to stand down, and Mr Hague quickly went to hide in the counting hall with his fiancée, Elin Jenkins. Pacing outside was



Hague refused to discuss leadership

an elderly gentleman who said he would not be surprised if Mr Hague threw his hat in the ring. "He always seems to succeed in what he wants to do," Nigel Hague, William's father, said. "There are fewer left in the field now. Portillo, he's gone, hasn't he?"

The votes were counted and Mr Hague had won with a comfortable but reduced majority. He thanked everyone and spoke of the need to rebuild the party. Then he tried to slip away. In the scrum, he stopped, temporarily bemused as to the whereabouts of his car. I told him that William Hill made him second favourite to win the leadership at 2-1. Should I have a bet? His face seemed to be framing the words but then he lost his cool and calm, got in the car and drove off.

## Wipeout forces a rethink on Wales

THE Labour Party in Wales was celebrating the Tory wipeout and fitting its new MPs last night (Valerie Elliot writes).

Ron Davies, expected to be named Welsh Secretary in Mr Blair's Cabinet today, set the target of a Tory-free Wales two years ago and said last night that it was "a dream coming true".

The loss of six Tory seats was a bitter blow to William Hague, the Welsh Secre-

tary. Among the prominent casualties were the junior Welsh Office Ministers Jonathan Evans and Gwynllyn Jones, and the junior Social Security Minister, Roger Evans.

It is clear that the Welsh Tory party will now have to rethink its strategy on devolution. Without a Welsh MP it will not even be able to mount a campaign against Labour's plans for a Welsh Assembly.

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# Leadership favourites begin jockeying for position

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE contest to succeed John Major began yesterday as the principal leadership contenders, led by Kenneth Clarke, began consulting their supporters.

Rivals of Mr Clarke did not bother to conceal their delight that the former Chancellor declared his candidacy on the lunchtime BBC radio news barely 60 minutes after Mr Major announced he was standing down. "He scored tactical blunders during the campaign and has scored the first one of the next campaign," one rightwing Tory MP said last night.

Michael Heseltine, a firm favourite to succeed John Major, was talking last night to his supporters, who also took heart from Mr Clarke's apparent gaffe.

John Redwood, who had been assumed to be the first candidate to come forward, held back from declaring his intentions. But only just. Mr Redwood, in an article in last night's *Evening Standard*, published his own vision for the future of the Conservative Party, which his enemies branded a leadership manifesto.

Mr Redwood, who was due to give a string of weekend media interviews, was not expected to



Kenneth Clarke leaving for London with a removal van yesterday. He declared his leadership intentions within 60 minutes of John Major's resignation

make an imminent statement on his intentions. "He is taking his time and allowing the situation to calm down," a Redwood supporter said. Mr Redwood was badly hit by the loss of key supporters

from the 1995 leadership contest, such as David Evans and Barry Legg, who ran his campaign. But soundings were being taken by his supporters and a new campaign manager is ready to

offer his services if requested.

But most interest yesterday focused on William Hague, who would be the youngest Tory leader in modern times. Mr Hague, 36, has so far refused to indicate

whether he would allow his name to be put forward. There were also signs of activity in the camp of the former Home Secretary Michael Howard, and a heavyweight candidate on the Right. Behind the

scenes discreet manoeuvring had begun to try to enlist the backers of Michael Portillo, the one-time favourite of the Tory Right. The targets included Bernard Jenkin, Essex North, John Bercow, the

newly elected MP for Buckingham. Angela Browning, the Eurosceptic former Agriculture Minister who hung on in Tiverton, and Nigel Evans in Ribbles Valley. The new MPs being courted by the Right include Julie Kirkbride in Bromsgrove and Dr Julian Lewis in New Forest East.

It appeared last night that Alan Duncan, the MP for Rutland and Melton, who was Brian Mawhinney's parliamentary aide, had emerged as the likely key broker with rightwing MPs over Mr Hague's future. "There is a lot of goodwill towards Hague. Many people think the only way to counter the appeal of Tony Blair is to skip a generation," one Tory MP said last night.

There was growing speculation last night that Peter Lilley might decide to enter the contest now his close ally, Mr Portillo, is out of the race. But many rightwing MPs were hoping he would refrain from entering. "It could split the rightwing vote and let in Michael Heseltine."

Stephen Dorrell, the former Health Secretary, once seen as the champion of the Left, is also considering his position. Mr Dorrell is encouraged by the consensus that a Centre-Right candidate could unite the party. But one of his supporters said: "He is biding his time before making any decision."

## Backbenchers in search for fresh leaders

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative defeat will force backbench MPs to stage a second battle for supremacy alongside the party leadership contest. The loss of several senior backbenchers could have a big impact on the make-up of the parliamentary party over the next five years.

The once-powerful executive of the 1922 Committee, the conduit for backbench Tory opinion, has been reduced from 18 to only three people and cannot meet its quorum. Eight former members stood down and seven were defeated on Thursday.

Most of the defeated members of the executive were prominent rightwingers, including Sir Rhodes Boyson, Bob Dunn, David Evans, Sir

make its presence felt at the outset, with John Townend expected to be among leading contenders for the chairmanship made vacant by the defeat of Sir Marcus Fox. However, he can expect opposition from fellow executive members Sir Archie Hamilton and Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the vice-chairman.

Friends of Sir Geoffrey and Sir Archie said last night that there would be a drive to prevent Mr Townend from seizing the chairmanship through the backing of the right-wing 92 Group. When MPs return to the Commons next week, the three remaining executive members will meet to gauge the attitude of the shrunken backbench force.

Of the 165 Tory MPs in the new Parliament, there is little clear indication of a marked shift in either political direction. Senior MPs were yesterday poring over the new lists to assess the new balance of the party but were divided as to whether the Left or Right had increased its influence.

The newly elected MPs have by three to two voiced their opposition to a single currency, suggesting a continuing right-wing bent. However, while many prominent rightwingers from the last Parliament were defeated, a substantial proportion of left-leaning MPs have been returned.

Many Tory MPs had hoped that a former Cabinet minister or other frontbencher might take on the role of chairman of the executive if the party lost the election, giving backbenchers a stronger voice. However, several possible candidates with past Cabinet experience, including David Hunt and Norman Lamont, fell victim to the Labour landslide. Sir Nicholas Bonsor was tipped as a possible successor but now he too has been wiped out.

### THE 1922 COMMITTEE

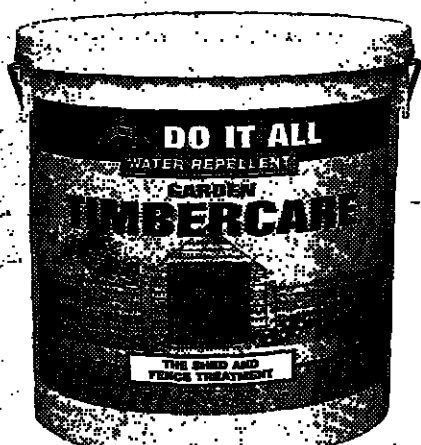
James Pawsey and Sir Ivan Lawrence. Their demise prompted the Right yesterday to press for a new generation of younger members to introduce greater dynamism into the backbench high command.

However, the scale of the Tory collapse will leave the party with precious little talent from which to choose. After John Major appoints some 70 frontbenchers, the executive will have to be chosen from fewer than 70 backbenchers who were in the last Parliament.

Elections for the numerous executive vacancies, especially those for the six officers' posts, may act as the first indicator of political opinion within the new party in advance of the leadership elections. However, the party will struggle to squeeze in a four-week election campaign for the executive in advance of a leadership contest that could be brought forward to next month.

First signs yesterday indicated that the Right intends to

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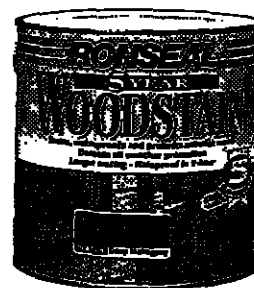
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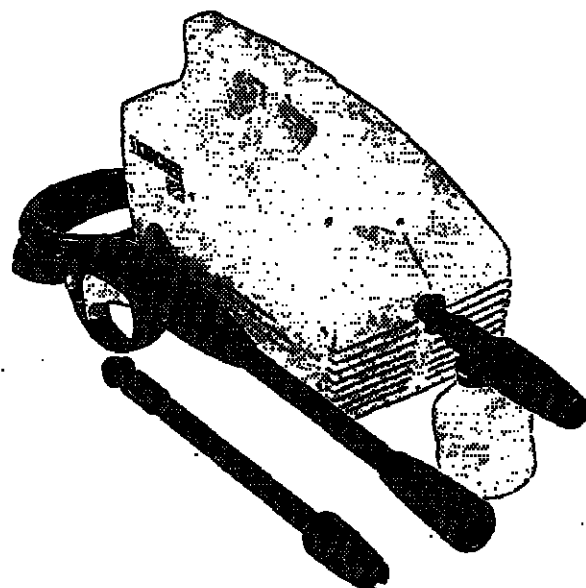
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Adams and McGuinness want to sit at peace talks but not at Westminster

# Sinn Fein wins two seats and a place on political map

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN achieved its most successful election result for 40 years yesterday when it captured two seats in Northern Ireland. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, the republican movement's key strategists, swept to victory after bitter contests in West Belfast and Mid Ulster.

Mr Adams, 48, the president of Sinn Fein, defeated Joe Hendron of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in West Belfast with a majority of 7,000. Sinn Fein supporters

shouted abuse at Dr Hendron as he left City Hall as Mr Adams recaptured the seat he had lost in 1992 by 589 votes.

Mr McGuinness, 46, defeated the Rev William McCrea of the Democratic Unionist Party by 1,883 votes in Mid Ulster. Mr McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, polled nearly twice as many votes as Denis Haughey, his SDLP rival, as nationalists voted tactically to unseat Mr McCrea.

Dr Hendron congratulated Mr Adams, and issued an emotional plea for peace. "What the Catholic people of the Falls Road and the Protestant people of the Shankill Road want is a genuine peace. Not just a cessation of shooting and killing, it is to do with smashing of young people's legs and community control."

Sinn Fein polled well in seats throughout Northern Ireland, increasing its share of the vote to 16.1 per cent from 10 per cent in the 1992 election. The poll was also an improvement on the 15.7 per cent share of the vote that Sinn Fein won at last May's election to the Northern Ireland Forum, which many observers had dismissed as a fluke. It



Martin McGuinness celebrating with Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein vice-president

has replaced the Democratic Unionist Party as Northern Ireland's third largest party. In other results, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, comfortably recaptured Upper Bann. The party's number of MPs rose from nine to ten with Willie Thompson capturing the new seat of West Tyrone from the SDLP.

The Rev Ian Paisley, DUP leader, recaptured North Antrim with a big majority, but his party now has only two MPs because of Mr McCrea's defeat. Peter Robinson, the deputy leader, retained East Belfast.

John Hume, the SDLP leader, was returned with an increased majority in Foyle. His party now has just three MPs because of Dr Hendron's defeat. Seamus Mallon, the party's deputy leader, and

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

### Tories begin a comeback in southern shires

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVES made widespread gains in the poll for control of the shires in the local elections. Both Labour and Liberal Democrats lost seats to them as they regained control of many of the county halls they lost four years ago.

Paul White, who leads the Conservative county councillor group, said the results showed that the party was already on the way back. "Only hours after winning Downing Street, Tony Blair knows that we are back in business in county halls round the country," he said.

"We have begun the work of rebuilding our power base. After 18 years in government perhaps our leaders had become a little distant from the roots but we can start to put that right now."

The Tories were most successful in their traditional power-bases in the south, capturing Hampshire from the Liberal Democrats and winning an absolute majority in the hung councils of Kent, Surrey, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and West Sussex.

Labour won Cumbria, where it had been the largest party on a hung council and came within one seat of taking Warwickshire, which remains hung. The Liberal Democrats, who overtook the Tories a year ago as the second largest party in local government, were unable to match their success this time. Apart from losing Hampshire to the Tories they lost overall control of East Sussex, Wiltshire and Cornwall, even though they won four of the five parliamentary seats in the county.

## COUNTY COUNCILS

**BEDFORDSHIRE:** C gain from NOC. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:** C no change. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE:** C gain from NOC. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**CHESHIRE:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**CORNWALL:** LD loss to NOC. LD loss 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**CUMBERLAND:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**DERBYSHIRE:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**DEVON:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**DORSET:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**DURHAM:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**EAST SUSSEX:** LD loss to NOC. LD loss 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**ESSEX:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**GLoucestershire:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Hampshire:** C gain from NOC. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**HERTFORDSHIRE:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Kent:** C gain from NOC. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**LANCASHIRE:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Leicestershire:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Lincolnshire:** C gain from NOC. C gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**London:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Northamptonshire:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Northumbria:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Nottinghamshire:** Lab no change. Lab gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Oxfordshire:** NOC no change. NOC gain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51



# Ashdown's army basks in sheer joy of 46 seats

By Polly Newton  
POLITICAL REPORTER

FOR many Liberal Democrats, basking in the glow of their remarkable election success, the question of what the party might achieve with its new parliamentary strength was secondary yesterday.

They were still marveling at the sheer fact of winning 46 seats — the most for any third party since 1929 — more than double their tally of 20 at the last election.

One Liberal Democrat source said: "For the moment, we are all luxuriating in what's happened. For some of us, we have been doing this for 20 years, and it's about time. We are absolutely thrilled."

Paddy Ashdown was also happy to focus initially on the figures alone. He told a Westminster press conference: "We have advanced in every part of Britain, gaining seats in Scotland, Yorkshire, the North West, the North East, the Midlands, East Anglia, London, the South and the South West. We are of course the second party of local government; we now become the challengers as well in a number of other seats where we only just missed."

By lunchtime, however, the Liberal Democrat leader was meeting colleagues to discuss



Ashdown: started work on party's new tactics

the ways in which his party might push its own agenda more forcefully. Mr Ashdown said that the Conservatives had been left "utterly ineffectual and incapable of providing true leadership from the opposition benches." He added: "It will be left to the Liberal Democrats to push forward our strategy of coherent and constructive politics."

In practice, the size of Labour's majority means that the Liberal Democrats will find it virtually impossible to

force Tony Blair's hand, however much they insist that they have won a significant mandate for their policies on education and health.

For the same reason, there is no prospect now of Mr Blair being forced to rely on the Liberal Democrats to push through legislation on Europe that he might otherwise have lost because of Eurosceptic rebels within his own party.

The swing against the Conservatives which gave the Liberal Democrats their breakthrough also left Labour with enough seats to ensure that the third party is still unlikely to wield significant influence.

The one area where the Liberal Democrats have been assured of a role is in constitutional reform. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have agreed a joint approach to policies including reform of the House of Lords and devolution. Mr Blair has also promised a referendum on electoral reform within his first term.

Mr Ashdown said: "I expect that to be delivered. I do not believe that that agreement was entered into in bad faith, nor indeed that Mr Blair is a dishonourable man."

The Liberal Democrats are also likely to raise the issue of official opposition to Labour on Scottish and Welsh policies and, in particular, the question of who appears opposite the Scottish Secretary at the dispatch box in the Commons. The Tories now have no MPs in Scotland or Wales.

A Liberal Democrat source said: "What the hell happens at Scottish and Welsh questions? It must be the case that in fact, the Shadow Scottish Secretary is a Liberal Democrat. We are the only official opposition in Scotland." In Wales, he said, it should be the Liberal Democrats or Plaid Cymru at the dispatch box.

The Tories, however, are unlikely to concede the point. The Liberal Democrats gained eight seats in the West Country and captured a whole swathe of the south of England, including Portsmouth South, Eastleigh, the Isle of Wight and — yesterday evening, the last declaration of the general election — Winchester with a majority of just two votes, unseating the Tory Health Minister, Gerald Malone.

The success of the campaign has guaranteed Mr Ashdown's place as leader of the Liberal Democrats for the foreseeable future, ending recent speculation that, at the age of 56, he might soon retire. He began his recovery from the gruelling election campaign yesterday afternoon with a few hours' sleep.



Martin Bell, new MP for Tatton, on a walkabout in Knutsford yesterday to thank his supporters

# The man with no party has class act to follow

Robin Young suggests a role model for Martin Bell

MARTIN BELL, Independent MP for Tatton, will have a lonely row to furrow as the first elected free of party ties to sit in the House of Commons since 1950.

Already he has come under attack from a bitter Neil Hamilton, who accused him of having no opinions "on anything". Mr Hamilton, who yesterday blamed the former BBC war correspondent for his defeat, said those who had backed Mr Bell had "voted for a vacuum". He forecast that his successor would be "ignored and fade into the background" in the Commons.

But by way of preparation, Mr Bell could do worse than take out of the library a copy of *Independent Member*, the lively memoirs of his most recent predecessor — the author, lyricist, barrister, wit and raconteur Sir Alan Patrick Herbert, also known as A.P. Herbert, or simply APH, who represented Oxford University as an Independent from 1935 until the university seats, including his, were abolished in 1950.

Herbert, a doughty champion of minority causes quixotically incapable of leaving any windmill unturned, was never short of friends, but he did suffer frustrations as a man without a party.

In August 1945, during a Commons debate on a government motion to appropriate private Members' time, APH produced from his



Herbert: spent 15 years as an Independent

pocket a bundle of 11 new Bills he hoped to introduce on subjects ranging from divorce and the teaching of the classics to the control of bookmakers and betting. The dramatic gesture made headlines, but the Government Bill duly passed, and Herbert's legislative creativity remained largely stifled.

It was not the prospect of being required to vote against his conscience which appalled him, he said, so much as what he called the "physical bondage" of not being able to come and go in the House as he chose. He saw that the party system was necessary. "All cannot be fly halves," he wrote. "There

must be a scrum." Yet he valued the freedom, which Mr Bell may now share, to start his own hares without consultation or fear of correction. "It was better, I thought, for those of us who have neither the power of supermen nor the position of dictators to try to get a few small things done than to vapour vainly about the woes of mankind," he wrote.

One technique APH made very much his own was the composition of fiery preambles to Bills. In 1936, with no European Economic Community in view other than that planned by Hitler, he began an attempt to amend the licensing laws: "Whereas it is commonly accepted that England is now to be considered as a part of the Continent of Europe, and should so conduct herself in all proper and peaceful affairs; and in this affair it is expedient that she should follow the good and civilised customs of France, which, by reason of the said laws is now not possible; the liquor laws in England 'shall be made, mutatis mutandis, the same as the laws of France'."

Of course they were not for another half-century, but in this, as in many other cases, APH's intended reforms did eventually come to pass.

Knightheaded in 1945, he died, well-loved and universally respected, in 1976 at the age of 80. Mr Bell will have his work cut out to do as well.

# £20m brings little political profit

THE Referendum Party claimed credit for the defeat of at least 14 Conservative candidates, including Sebastian Coe and Tony Newton, after running one of the most expensive yet unsuccessful campaigns.

But Sir James Goldsmith's investment of an estimated £20 million brought little return. His party's 354 candidates attracted a total of 810,231 votes — a 2 per cent share — at a cost to Sir James of £24.68 per voter.

Officials tried to take comfort after the loss of all but a handful of deposits by emphasising the impact in a number of closely fought seats. In at least 14 constituencies where Tories came second, Referendum Party candidates attracted more votes than the overall majority.

A party spokesman said that no tears would be shed

for the beaten Tories. "Most of them are wet Europhiles and we are delighted we have managed to get rid of them. In those constituencies one must assume our vote was decisive."

Of Sebastian Coe, who failed by 2,668 votes to hold his seat, the spokesman said: "He is dripping wet with zero backbone. Anybody who replaces him must be an improvement."

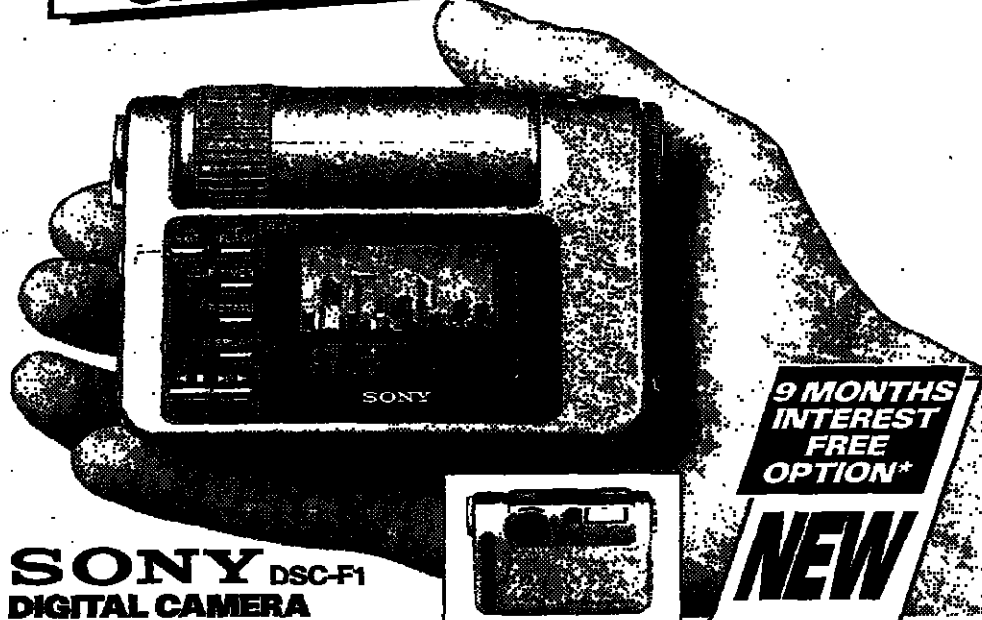
Until dawn yesterday Mr Coe believed he had held Plymouth and Camborne. A little more than 3,500 of those he had hoped might support him had changed their loyalty and voted for the Referendum Party's Peter de Savary.

Sir James insisted that he would carry on campaigning, probably under the new banner of the Referendum Movement. It will adopt a "wait and see" policy on Tony Blair.

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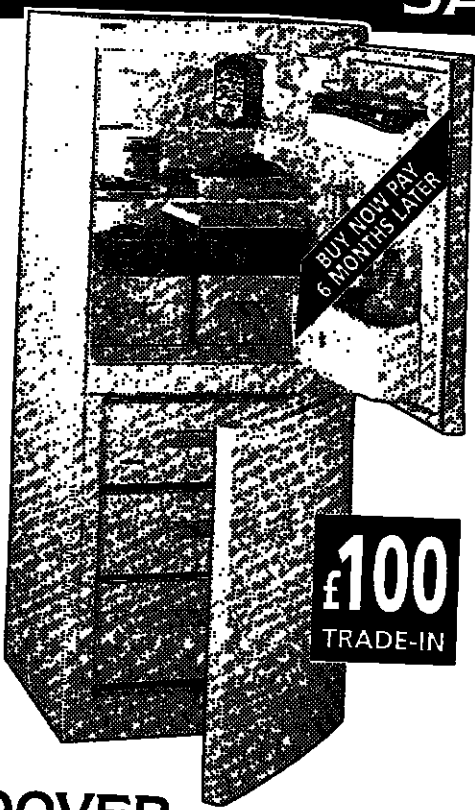
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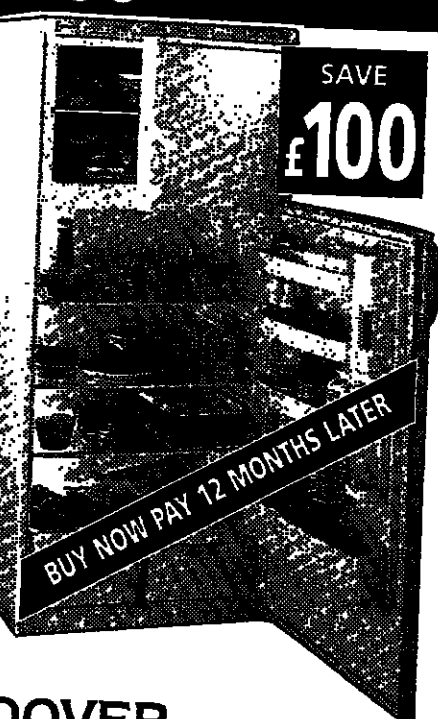
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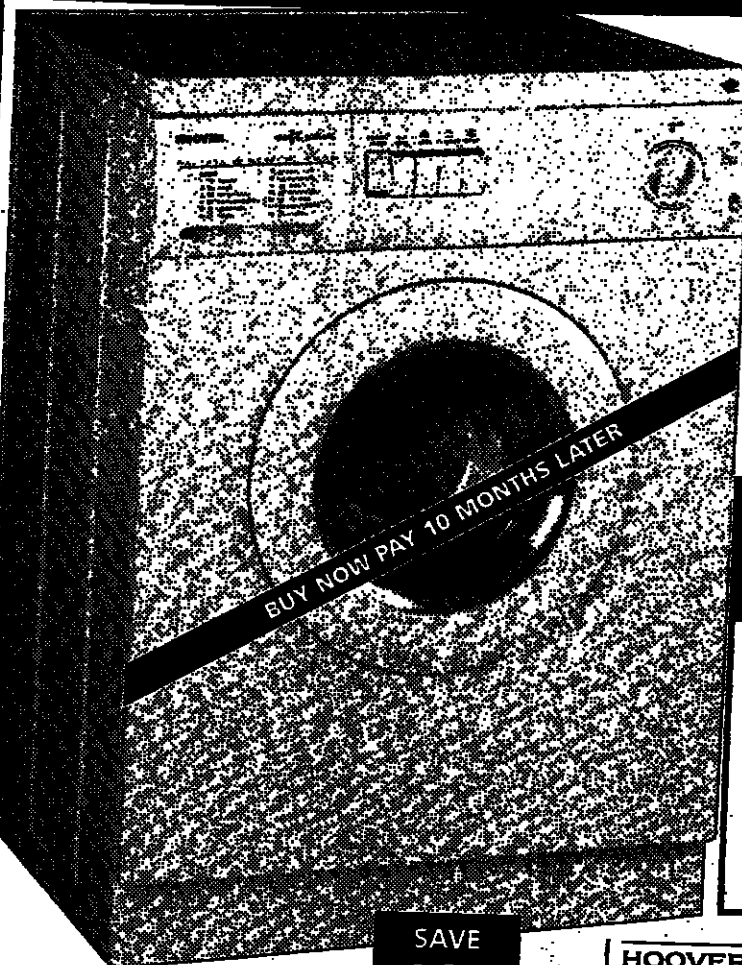


**HOOVER** 8.3 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer  
Model RCM27F.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £379.99.  
BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER.

**TRADE-IN PRICE**  
**£379.99**

Pay a 20% deposit then monthly for the balance period indicated with the product. You can then repay the loan in full, interest free, or by from the date of the agreement. Example based on 12 months. Buy Now Pay Later. Cash Price £379.99. 20% deposit £75.99. Then pay the loan amount of £303.99 in 12 months of £25.33 monthly payments (incl. 20% deposit of £75.99). Total amount payable £379.99.

### AUTOWASHERS SAVE UP TO £150



**HOOVER** 1200 Spin 'Soft Wave' Autowasher  
Model AC340. Was £449.99.

**CURRYS PRICE**  
**£349.99**

### FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Ecological wash system.
- Half load option.
- 'Supercare' programme.
- Creaseguard action.
- Economy option.
- Woollens programme.

**HOOVER** 1000 Spin 'Soft Wave' Autowasher  
■ Ecological wash system.  
■ Creaseguard action.  
Model AC272.  
Was £399.99.  
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER.

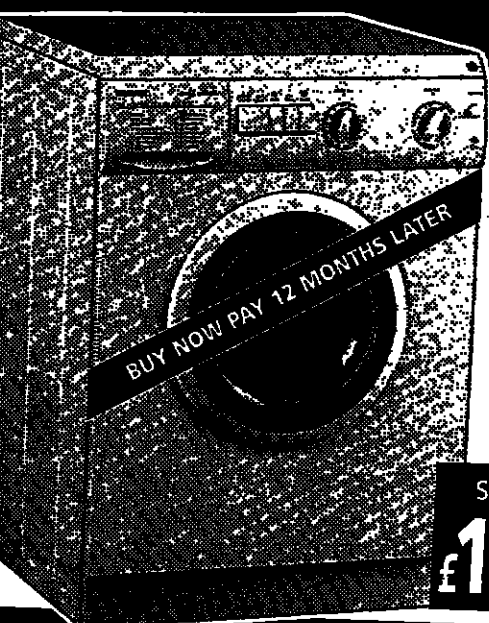
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**HOOVER** 1200 Spin 'Soft Wave' Autowasher  
Model AC340. Was £449.99.  
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER.

### WASHER DRYERS SAVE UP TO £150



**HOOVER** 1100 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer  
■ Available in White or Almond.  
■ Ecological wash system.  
■ Creaseguard action.  
■ 12 wash programmes.  
Model A8754/A8756.  
Was £549.99.

**CURRYS PRICE**  
**£399.99**

**HOOVER** 1150 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer  
■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Delay start.  
Model W120. Was £499.99.  
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER.

**HOOVER** 1200 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer  
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### TUMBLE DRYERS SAVE UP TO £100

**HOOVER** 10lb 'Soft Wave' Tumble Dryer  
■ Final cool tumble.  
■ 120 minute timer.  
Model D680W.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £199.99.  
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER.

**HOOVER** 10lb 'Soft Wave' Tumble Dryer  
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■ 120 minute timer.  
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**HOOVER** 11lb Condenser Dryer  
■ Reverse action.  
■ Automatic cool-down.  
■ 2 heat settings.  
■ 135 minute timer.  
■ Needs no venting.  
Model SF31. Was £399.99.

**CURRYS PRICE**  
**£299.99**

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■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Delay start.  
Model W120. Was £499.99.  
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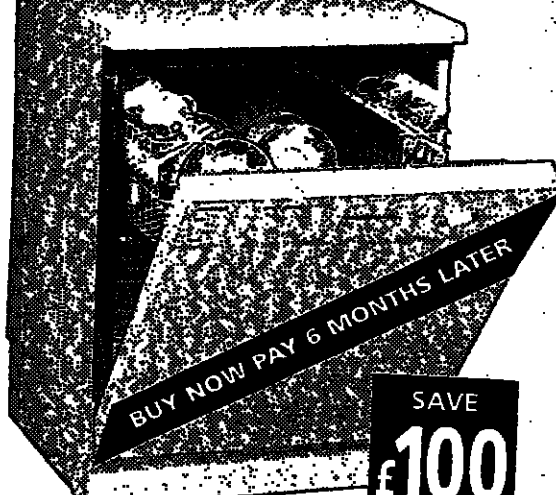
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### NEW RANGE DISHWASHERS SAVE UP TO £120



**HOOVER** Full Size 'Soft Wave' Dishwasher  
4 programmes.  
Model D451.  
Was £399.99.

**CURRYS PRICE**  
**£299.99**

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**NEW FROM**

Available on all new models.  
Direct Hydraulic Water Injection System gives you:  
■ More space inside the dishwasher  
■ Improved washing performance  
■ Lower noise levels  
Other great space saving ideas include a 2-part cutlery basket and removable cup and plate holders on most models.

**HOOVER** Full Size 'Soft Wave' Dishwasher  
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**Currys**  
**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES**



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OVER 350 HOME APPLIANCES AVAILABLE WITH 3-DAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED  
EXTRA VALUE EXCLUSIVE MODELS  
For exceptional value, look for the wide selection of superb models and offers exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.  
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TAKE IT HOME NOW  
Most items are in stock ready to take away at once. We will be happy to carry your purchase to your car.

**2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
Choose AMPM. Plus professional installation service. Ask for details. prices and availability.  
**COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION**  
Combined delivery and installation on all free-standing gas and electric cookers (includes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores). Installation by GORGI registered engineers.  
**SAME DAY IN-HOME SERVICE**  
Available for most large items (if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store).  
**AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP**  
Expert service available 7 days a week (same day wherever possible). All repairs guaranteed 3 months.

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BOTTLENECK - 0800 080000  
Phone our dedicated software line 7 days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute.  
**IN-STORE PC UPGRADE SERVICE**  
Make the most of Windows 95. RAM upgrade chips from £27.99. Installation only £18. Ask for details.  
**EASY WAYS TO PAY**  
Currys Premier Advantage account offers instant Credit and lets you take advantage of any credit offer in-store. See in-store for details.  
**CURRYS DIRECT**  
For direct, doorstep delivery in 5 working days. Freephone 0800 304304 or fax 01442 888145 (9am-5pm Mon-Sat). Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

**NEW**  
**MASTERCARE**  
always there...  
**Coverplan**  
**only Currys**  
bring you all this

**INTEREST FREE OPTION ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100**  
Up to 5 years service support provided by expert engineers when you purchase a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement. PLUS Interest Free Option when purchased with any product over £100. Ask in-store for details.



## Sales up as Times wins top industry award

THE continuing success of *The Times* was underlined this week with the award of a major newspaper industry honour and the release of increased readership figures.

The *Times* was named Newspaper of the Year at the 1997 Newspaper Awards. In their citation, the judges said: "The *Times* is praised for its outstanding commitment to energetic news reporting and dedication to open debate of nationally important issues."

"The newspaper has seen solid increases in sales and rising advertising volumes over the past year. The title has also expanded its range of coverage to ensure that it meets the expectations of its readership in all areas of human interest and endeavour."

The 1997 Newspaper Awards are made in association with *Production Journal* and *Fujifilm Graphic Systems*.

The latest figures from the National Readership Survey show:

□ Readership up 253,000 year on year to almost two million a day, an increase of 15.4 per cent.

□ The *Times* maintains its young readership profile with 51.1 per cent of its readers aged under 45, compared with 35.6 per cent at the *Daily Telegraph*.

□ Circulation is up 110,968 year on year to 747,000, an increase of 17 per cent.

These achievements make *The Times* the fastest-growing daily newspaper in Britain.

## Ex-MI6 man jailed for selling gun to detective

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER MI6 electronics expert and sharpshooter was jailed for a year yesterday for illegally supplying a pistol and ammunition to a detective working under cover.

Christopher Hale, 57, once swept Canterbury Cathedral to make sure that it was safe for a royal visit and arranged protection for Stella Rimington, the former Director-General of the Security Service. He was also a highly qualified marksman whose lightning reflexes earned him the nickname Hasty. He invented a special night-vision camera, used to find bodies after the Oklahoma bombing, and a remote-controlled bomb defuser.

When Hale was arrested at his home, a team of 36 armed officers were deployed. Yesterday, at Middlessex Crown Court, Judge Imman told Hale, from Southfields, south London, that he would have to go to jail despite a record including an award for foiling an armed robber.

He added: "Many people have cause to be thankful for your technical ingenuity and skill in developing various machines and equipment designed to save life in terrorist situations all over the world. It is all the more sad, therefore, that you have become involved in these offences."

He said that the 32 Astra revolver, sold by Hale for £350 to an officer posing as an East End criminal, was a potential killer.

Last week Hale's friend, Robert Scott, 49, a former SAS soldier, was jailed for three years. Scott, another sharpshooter, was a rooftop sniper during the Iranian Embassy siege and admitted selling a Spectra M4 submachine-gun to the same officer for £1,000.

Hale, who started his working life as a television engineer, began specialising in security in 1968. In 1982, he set himself up as an anti-hijack specialist and went on to work for Britain's special forces. In 1984, the Lord Mayor of London presented him with a Binn Memorial bravery award after he tackled an armed robber who shot at him four times before being overpowered.

He worked around the world and acted as a security consultant for the governments of Dubai, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He met Scott at the SAS's Hereford headquarters in 1987. Later Scott, who was once a stand-in for Sylvester Stallone during filming, set up a security consultancy and Hale freelanced for the firm.

The two men were caught after police involved in a sting operation put out a "shopping list" for illegal military guns. It came to the attention of a businessman member of Scott's gun club at Bisleigh, Surrey. Eventually Scott was introduced to a policeman posing as an arms dealer, and then to the "criminal". It was Hale who gave the gun to the undercover officer.



Hale: trapped by sting.



Archie McCafferty arriving in Glasgow yesterday: he is free to go wherever he wants, without police checks

## Serial killer flies home to his roots

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND TIM JONES

ONE of Australia's most notorious serial killers flew into his home city of Glasgow as a free man yesterday. Archie McCafferty, 49, was engulfed by journalists and curious members of the public as he took his first steps in the country he left as a child.

The slightly built killer, wearing dark glasses, kept his head down and refused to answer any questions before being bundled into a car under police escort. He was thought to be staying with distant relatives.

McCafferty, known as Mad Dog, served 23 years in Australian jails for four murders and had once pledged to

kill seven people. He was accompanied by three Australian policemen on his flight from Sydney and was met at Heathrow by two Glasgow social workers, who accompanied him on the flight to Scotland.

Glasgow City Council said yesterday that it was statutorily obliged to offer assistance. At first the council claimed its offers of accommodation and support had been rejected, but a spokesman said later that he had made a mistake and that McCafferty had in fact agreed to co-operate.

The killer is under no obligation to accept help from the council. As a British citizen he can go wherever he wants without any police surveillance. The Australian authorities' decision to grant him parole

two weeks ago was accompanied by strict conditions, but those are not enforceable in Britain. They included regular health checks and a life-long ban on alcohol and drugs, which had played a part in his random "thrill kill" murders in 1973.

Then, at the age of 24, he led a gang of drug-crazed teenagers on a killing spree in Sydney, murdering three people. Craig, he claimed that his dead baby son, Craig, had told him that, if he killed seven people, he would be reincarnated. In 1981 he was convicted of manslaughter of a fellow inmate at Parramatta Prison.

Although McCafferty lived in Australia from the age of ten, after his family emigrated, he never applied for citizenship and is now ineligible for it because of the time he spent in prison.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Man cleared of killing wife

David Tiernan, 47, from Hornsea, east Yorkshire, who allegedly confessed to his mistress, Teresa Kirwin, that he had killed his wife and passed off her death as an accident, was cleared of murder yesterday at Sheffield Crown Court. He was charged last year with the murder of his wife, Pauline, 38, seven years after a coroner ruled that she had been electrocuted.

#### Care head jailed

George Brittain, 67, from Great Barr, Birmingham, a former manager of Summerhill home, a hostel for homeless men in the city, was jailed for two years yesterday for assaults on four elderly residents in his care between 1979 and 1983.

#### School fails test

The Nottinghamshire primary school which closed for eight days when teachers refused to teach a ten-year-old boy has been failed by inspectors. Manton Junior School, in Worksop, will face "special measures" over poor teaching and unsatisfactory standards.

#### Heroin seized

Customs officers have found a further 200 kilograms of heroin at a warehouse in Hornsey, north London, after finding 250kg earlier in the week at the same place. The haul is equal to two thirds of the total heroin finds made by customs in Britain last year.

# "HURRY!"

## Last few days to get

# 33% OFF

## selected kitchen units at B&Q!

**25% OFF MORE KITCHEN UNITS IN STORE**

• FREE PLANNING • FREE HOME VISIT • FREE DELIVERY • GUARANTEED INSTALLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE

BOBBI ATKINSON  
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**CLAREMONT GREEN**  
Shaker style kitchen with soft green doors and contrasting pine knobs.

9 Unit Kitchen Example as shown.\*

**WAS £769.91**  
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WILL EARN YOU OVER 100 TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS

**\*9 UNIT KITCHEN EXAMPLE**

1 500mm DRAWER PACK	5 1000mm HIGHER BASE UNIT
2 1000mm HIGHER BASE UNIT	6 500mm WALL UNIT
3 1000mm HIGHER BASE CORNER UNIT	7 1000mm WALL UNIT
4 400mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING	8 500mm BIFOLDING UNIT
	9 1000mm WALL UNIT

All units are self-assembly. Other units available. Ask in store for details and costs. Example includes items only as shown.

**HOMARK STAR PACK**

WAS £219.99  
**NOW £199.99**

Gas Hob, Star Pack Electric Oven & Standard Hood Available in brown or white.

Pop into your local B&Q for your copy of the B&Q Kitchens Brochure.

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OPEN ALL BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Monday-Saturday: Most stores 9am-5pm, Sunday: Most stores 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-5pm. BANK HOLIDAY: MONDAY 9am to 5pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm. B&Q'S BIGGEST BLY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900. Internet: <http://www.bq.co.uk>

Ask in-store for details of all offers. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouse and B&Q Depot. See in-store for details of price guarantee. All kitchens may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. Installation only available with purchases of B&Q kitchens and not included in discount offers. Ask in store for details and costs. \*Free delivery with purchase of 8 units or more.

**UP TO 2 YEARS 0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED KITCHENS**

Up to 2 years Interest Free Credit available when you spend £1,800 or more on one of 33 other kitchens in the range. Your purchase can include accessories, worktops, sinks, taps, appliances and installation costs.

PURCHASE PRICE.....	£1,800
REPAYABLE IN 18 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS OF ONLY.....	£80
20% MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF.....	£360
LOAN VALUE.....	£1,440
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE (0%APR).....	£1,800

PURCHASE PRICE	CREDIT PERIOD
\$1,800 - \$2,399.99	18 months
\$2,400 or more	24 months

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Sir Roy denies his book was written in bitterness. "I've been sent up by everybody and everything. Now it's my turn to have a little fun," he says

# 'I want to be forgiven - no more feuds'

Jason Cowley talks to Sir Roy Strong about his caustic diaries

For a book that purports to be a work of "reconciliation" Sir Roy Strong's *Diaries* is recklessly provocative. Spanning the 20 years from 1967 to 1987, when he was head of the National Portrait Gallery and director of the Victoria and Albert, these caustic bulletins from inside the art establishment certainly have the power to offend.

The tone of the entries is candid, indignant, mischievous, occasionally cruel. They add a new dimension to the cliché of "knowing everyone". Sir Roy relates private dinner party conversations with the Royal Family, ridicules prime ministers and scourges his enemies. Like Alan Clark, he nurtures resentment.

Of Sir Terence Conran, with whom Strong is mired in a

protracted dispute, he writes: "He's no intellectual. I suppose I make him feel inferior and so as usual he bullies his way through... I must embody so much that all his money can never buy." Sir Peter Hall is "power hungry" and has "piggy eyes and long greasy hair". David [now Lord] Owen is "totally humourless, always trying to look the part of a future PM and not succeeding". Shirley Williams is "toddily short" and "holds her cutlery in her fists".

"His accent," he writes of the Princess of Wales, "is really rather awful considering that she is an earl's daughter. Not an upper-class drawl at all, but rather tuneless and... common." Princess Margaret is "tough, disillusioned and spoilt". His own family is treated with equal disdain. His father, George, has "an enormous bloated stomach; his life has been a monument to the lack of willpower".

Either Sir Roy does not care what people think of him, or he is too self-absorbed to consider how his revelations will be received. "Actually, I don't care what people think of me," he says defiantly, in the drawing room of his Westminster flat. The room is small but exquisitely furnished. The curtains are three-quarters drawn, shutting out the bright afternoon sunshine.

Sir Roy has had a bad week. Friends say he is "privately devastated" at the lurid treatment his book has received in the press. "He is gravely

offended and fears the vulgar extracts in the *Daily Mail* have done irreparable damage to his reputation," one says. He betrays little sign of distress, though - at least, initially. "I don't know what the fuss is about," he says. "Reports say I've written the book because I'm bitter, because I'm smarting about what happened at the V&A. That's not true. If people haven't got a sense of humour about things said a long time ago that's their problem. I've been sent up by everybody and everything. Now it's my turn to have a little fun."

It is true that people have been unkind to Strong. His unashamed sartorial flamboyance, his foppish manner, social climbing and snobbery: all have made him an easy target. The *New Statesman*, famously described him as "like a rather superior guy ordered from Harrod's". Conran, irritated by the *Diaries*, was more critical: "He has a huge chip on his shoulder which weighs him down... One part tries to paint himself as an academic and the next minute he behaves like a gossip columnist."

Sir Roy cannot resist responding to Conran's barb: "He wasn't very nice to me when I was at the V&A [Conran was a trustee]. Why should I feel loyalty to someone who tried to get rid of me?" Born in the north London suburb of Fincham Road in 1935, Strong is an unlikely

aesthete. The son of a struggling commercial traveller, he had a disturbed boyhood. Though his mother encouraged his scholarly instincts, there were no books in the house; his father, whom he loathed, was "utterly uninterested" in him.

Poor but restlessly ambitious, he longed to escape from all that constrained him. Grammar school and London University were his route out. "I find it hard to be reconciled to my past. My experience of family life is of people setting out to destroy each other. My mother took every menial job she could to encourage my education but at a price that I should never marry. Her marriage was so unhappy, you see. When I eventually got married I chose to elope rather than tell her what I was doing."

Despite this, his 26-year marriage to the theatre designer Julia Trevelyan Oman is his "one constant source of happiness". "If I wasn't married I would be dead by now so great were the problems I encountered there."

He is referring to his tenure at the V&A, which he depicts as labyrinthine, full of malice. "The place is a killer," he says. "These museums are closed, hermetic worlds; the staff are resistant to change. Look what they did to my successor, Elizabeth [Esteve-Coll], a widow. They went for her as they went for me. When I see photographs of her she looks as if she has been lifted out of the grave."

What makes Sir Roy's diary so compelling is that thoughts are confided without censorship; he says he resisted the temptation to coat events with a retrospective gloss because "I was aware that I was standing in history and recorded what I saw".

casting, defective judgment, narrow perspectives. As a young man Strong was taken up by the old establishment guard - Harold Acton, the Sitwells, Cecil Beaton, Diana Cooper. The vignettes of the parties to which they invited him were written with an eye to publication. "I've been sitting on all this material for so long that it would be dishonest if I now doctored what I wrote," he says.

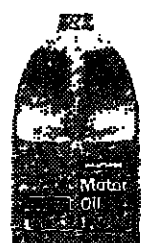
So why publish now? "The goalposts on what can and cannot be said have moved so much in the past five years my extensive tell me that the moment is right."

Asked if he may yet regret his openness, his mood alters. "You're right, I've laid myself open. People are out to get me... I didn't want it to be like this. I was simply attempting to reconcile myself to my past, to put things in order. Everything that I've done has been done from the heart, with passion and sincerity."

His eyes water a little. "What I'm trying to say is that I want to be forgiven. I don't want any more feuds. Not even with Conran? Not even with him."

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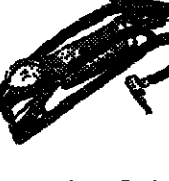
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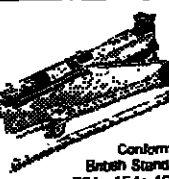
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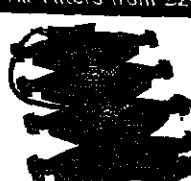
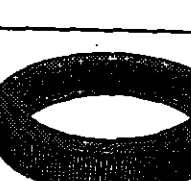
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## Father presumed drowned after saving son's life

FROM PHILIP JEUNE IN JERSEY

A FATHER was believed drowned last night after apparently saving his ten-year-old son by lashing him to a buoy off Jersey after their dinghy capsized on a fishing trip.

João De Sousa's final act before attempting to swim two miles to shore to summon help was to secure his son, Elvis, so that he would not be swept out to sea or drowned.

A lifeboat crew found Elvis clinging to the buoy off the northwest coast of Jersey. He was tied on by the cord of his lifejacket to prevent him from slipping beneath the waves. No trace could be found yesterday of Senhor De Sousa, 33, a Portuguese-born farm labourer. He was presumed to have drowned.

Elvis was rescued after five hours in darkness in the 13C water and a stiff breeze. He was suffering from hypothermia and was given oxygen on the lifeboat. As he was pulled to safety, he said: "Thank you, thank you. Can I have a drink, please?"

An air-sea search for his father by the two Jersey lifeboats from St Helier and St Catherine's and a helicopter belonging to the Barclay brothers on neighbouring Brechou was called off at noon yesterday. A search of the west coast to look for his

body began later at low tide.

Father and son had gone fishing at 5pm on Thursday. According to police, Elvis said that the 11ft boat had been overturned by a large wave not long into their trip.

The pair swam to the buoy and Senhor De Sousa secured his son for safety before beginning his swim to shore to alert the rescue services. Two hours later, Captain John Dowling, the pilot of an aircraft flying from Guernsey to Jersey, reported spotting something in the water.

Mike Collett, a private pilot flying back to Jersey from a business meeting in Coventry, was asked to keep a look-out. He made several circuits of the area, but it was only when he turned for his approach to the island's airport that he spotted the upturned hull of the boat.

The boy's mother, Lourdes, reported her husband and son missing shortly before 9pm on Thursday, when she became alarmed that they had not returned home.

She had assumed until then that they were staying out later than intended, lulled by calm waters and the warm evening.

The search had already been under way for nearly two hours and Elvis was plucked from the water at about 10pm.

Nigel Sweeney, coxswain of the St Helier lifeboat, said: "It was a miracle that he survived, absolutely fantastic. For a ten-year-old he was switched on."

Paul Battick, who treated the boy on board the lifeboat, said: "He was shaken and very cold. He was wearing a tracksuit as well as his lifejacket and was quite well built for his age, which might have helped him to survive. He was amazing. We got talking and he wants to come back to see the lifeboat and would like us to go to his school."

Elvis, who was born in Venezuela and takes his surname, Viera, from his mother, was released yesterday after spending the night under observation in hospital. The family has lived in Jersey for some years.



Paul Battick, who treated Elvis Viera on the lifeboat, carries the boy ashore

## Safety alert as 5m hit holiday roads

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

TEMPERATURES reached 27C (81F) on the hottest day of the year yesterday as five million drivers started the Bank Holiday getaway, although Monday's forecast is for cloud and rain almost everywhere.

About 1½ million others are due to head abroad, with continental capitals favoured because of the strength of the pound. Paris, Brussels and Prague are top of the list. Other popular destinations include the Balearic Islands, Tenerife, Dublin and Florida.

About 500,000 people are expected to fly abroad from Heathrow over the weekend. At Gatwick about 332,000 people will pass through the airport, up nearly a third on the same time last year.

The AA advised motorists planning to cross the Channel to prepare for possible strike chaos in France on Monday. Two French lorry drivers' unions have backed a day of action to protest over working conditions. Last November's 12-day blockade paralysed ports and roads leading to

Calais. As the exodus from the main cities began yesterday lunchtime, the AA also warned drivers to take extra care after figures showed that the period just preceding a Bank Holiday could be the worst time for accidents, which can increase by up to 25 per cent as motorists rush to get on their way.

"The trouble at Bank Holiday weekends is that people are often driving somewhere they don't know. They are on unfamiliar roads, perhaps with someone navigating who doesn't really know the way either, and that is when accidents are more likely to happen," an AA spokesman said.

Roads to the South Coast and the West Country are expected to be heavily congested throughout today. Troublespots include the M5 southbound at the Avonmouth bridge, the M4 in South Wales, and the A30 in Cornwall.

Forecast, page 32  
AA Roadwatch, Car 97, page 2

## Deaths prompt call to beware cold sea

BY LIN JENKINS

COASTGUARDS are warning weekend holidaymakers to treat the sea with caution after two sunbathers drowned trying to swim to safety. They had been out off by the tide, they lay in a secluded cove.

Chantelle Price, 42, a former dancer, and her flatmate, Dawn Robertson, 37, an interior decorator, were pulled unconscious from the sea after being stranded at Tuck Head on Limeslade Bay, South Wales. Coastguards said that, despite the hot weather, the sea was very cold and unsafe for swimming.

Police said that Mrs Price, a divorced mother of two, could not swim and soon got into difficulty as she tried to return to dry land on Thursday.

Coastguards at Swansea saw that the women were in difficulty and raised the alarm. By the time an inshore rescue craft reached them, both were unconscious.

Mrs Price's daughter, Vicky, 25, said that her mother and Ms Robertson often visited the spot to sunbathe. "I know they had been there earlier in the week when it was sunny. My mother couldn't swim and she must have got into trouble when they went into the sea."

"She worked as an exotic dancer and travelled all over Europe with her job. She was a wonderful woman and was loved by everyone."

Roy Griffiths, captain of the Mumbles inshore lifeboat, said that the sea temperature was still only about 9C at this time of year. "It is very cold indeed and the sea around the bay is very dangerous. It is not safe for swimming at this time of year."

The forecast for the weekend is for cloud and rain. However, the Cancer Research Campaign will issue an emergency warning about the dangers of skin cancer today. It says that the climate in southern Britain is approaching that of the wine-growing areas of France and that the incidence of skin cancer is already significantly higher there than in other parts of the country.

The number of cases in Cornwall is twice the national average. In Devon it is 50 per cent above the average and along all of the South Coast it is at least 25 per cent higher. The University of East Anglia has recently forecast that temperatures across the country will rise by up to 1.5C over the next half century, which would make Brighton as warm as the Loire Valley.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

# Robert Harris: Inside the Blair camp



Robert Harris, the best-selling author and political commentator, has had unique access to Tony Blair and his inner circle on the route to No 10. Tomorrow you can share the innermost secrets of the final weeks in the run-up to Blair's spectacular triumph

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

## European judges condemn move to deport dying man

By EMMA WILKINS

AN ATTEMPT by the Government to deport a convicted drugs smuggler is inhumane because he is dying from Aids, the European Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday.

The man, known only as D, was given a six-year jail sentence after being convicted of smuggling cocaine into Britain through Gatwick airport in January 1993. Immigration officials decided that he should be deported to his birthplace, St Kitts, in the Caribbean, after his release from prison three years later. His medical condition, contracted before his arrival in Britain, was diagnosed while he was in prison.

The European judges, sitting in Strasbourg, decided that an attempt to forcibly remove D from Britain would breach an article against "degrading and inhuman treatment" in the Human Rights Convention, which Britain has

signed. The court has no power to stop the Government from proceeding with the deportation. A spokesman for the Home Office said officials were studying the ruling.

D, who is living in an Aids charity hospice in London, has only a few weeks to live. St Kitts had limited medical facilities for the treatment of Aids, the court was told.

"It is not disputed that his already shortened life expectancy would be further reduced on account of the lack of medical treatment and facilities for dealing with his condition in St Kitts," the judges said in a unanimous ruling in Strasbourg. "The applicant appears to have no close family members there, no means of support and no accommodation."

D appealed unsuccessfully at the High Court in London last year against the decision of the Chief Immig-

ration Officer to deport him.

John Wadham, director of the pressure group Liberty, said that Labour had promised to incorporate the Human Rights Convention into British law, an action that could have shortened the legal process in this case.

"The deportation of a dying man can surely never be justified in a civilised society," Mr Wadham said. "It is unfortunate that the courts in this country were unable to stop this and that it was necessary to seek the help of the Strasbourg court."

The decision was welcomed by the Terence Higgins Trust, an Aids charity, and the Aire Centre, an independent advice group, which jointly represented D. Nick Partridge, of the trust, said that the decision "upholds our country's long-standing reputation for support of human rights and dignity".



Matthew Etherington, who will sit 10 GCSEs this summer, is to play for Peterborough United's first team

## Schoolboy, 15, joins the big league

MATTHEW ETHERINGTON takes to the football field for second division Peterborough United today as one of the youngest players ever picked for a League team (Robin Young writes).

At the age of 15 years and 261 days he will be playing on Peterborough's left wing a few weeks before sitting 10 GCSE exams. Matthew moved to the cathedral city three years ago after his family sold their home in Cornwall in an effort to further his football career. The boy, who

attends the Deacon's School in Peterborough, does not officially become an apprentice until next year. He said: "It was a big enough shock to be told I was playing in the reserves on Wednesday, so I was astonished when Barry Fry [the manager of Peterborough] told me after the game that I would be playing in the first team on Saturday."

Matthew, who credits his promotion to Peterborough's youth development officer, Kit Carson, added: "Whatever

happens, it will be better than sweeping the terraces as I normally have to on a Saturday afternoon." Mr Fry said: "He is a fantastic talent and a level-headed lad. He will not let anyone down."

He becomes the seventh youngest League footballer. The joint youngest were aged 15 years and 158 days: Albert Geldard at Bradford Park Avenue in 1929 and Ken Roberts at Wrexham in 1951.

Football, page 25, 28



## Ascension brings us down to earth

Doug Gay

"I believe he ascended into Heaven."

JUST as for most practical purposes I treat the Earth as flat, so I am happy to believe that Heaven is "up". The Feast of the Ascension next Thursday pops up between the Easter rising and the Pentecost falling. It has not had a good press in 20th-century theology.

Modern liberal theology has squirmed in acute spiritual embarrassment over first-century ideas of a three-decker universe. More recent turns in biblical theology have loosened the philosophical straitjacket. Attention to and enjoyment of story and metaphor, along with greater literary sophistication, allow the thought of going up to be less of a theological downer. Believing in the Ascension of Christ involves coping with the loss and disappearance of the Jesus restored to us by the Resurrection. While Luke tells us the stories, John's Gospel dramatizes the spiritual dilemma in the cameo of Mary Magdalene trying to cling to what must be released.

That said, what seems crucial is precisely Luke's embarrassing detail about a body moving through space. The wording of the

stories inhibits us from reading Ascension as the undoing of Incarnation. It has been pointed out recently that one of the dangers of "happy clappy" worship is the preponderance of worship songs focusing exclusively on the ascended Christ. Without body language, the Ascension threatens to reduce Christian believing to a feel-good gnosticism.

The post-modern world is characterised more by spiritual emptiness than by spiritual fullness. But the search is often for a design or spirituality offering personal fulfilment rather than a crucified God asking for radical discipleship. The comedown of Incarnation is what gives meaning to our being spiritually uplifted by the Ascension. The link is suggestive politically as well as personally.

grounding all our lives as well as the aspirations of those we have just elected. Even while promising the power to effect change, it insists that in our rising we dare not leave the wounds of humanity behind. I believe He ascended; Heaven and Hades are both the richer for it. □ The Rev Doug Gay is minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church, east London.

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## Mobutu hires Unita guerrillas as Luanda arms Kabila's rebel forces

## Angolan factions are drawn into Zairean civil war

FEARS that Angola could be dragged into Zaire's civil war increased yesterday with the revelation that President Mobutu has recruited 400 Unita guerrillas as a "special bodyguard", while advancing rebels have been supplied with men and armour by the Angolan Government.

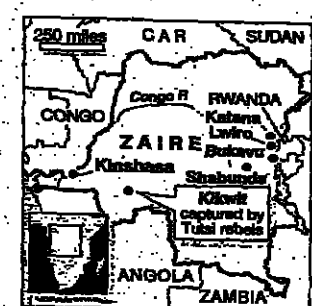
According to sources in Mr Mobutu's entourage, the soldiers from the Union for the Total Independence of Angola have been installed at the presidential palace. They were sent to him by his long-standing friend, Jonas Savimbi, the former Angolan rebel leader.

Dr Savimbi's fighters recently laid down their weapons as part of a peace agreement which brought him into the Angolan Government after almost 20 years of civil war.

"Mobutu has the troops from Angola because he clearly does not trust all the other soldiers around him — perhaps not all his own presidential guard," a source at the palace said.

Angolan government troops were massing along the Zairean frontier in the west of the country close to the enclave of Cabinda to prevent Zaire's civil war from spilling into its territory. The soldiers had not crossed into Zaire. It was clear

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA



that the Angolan Government had given support to Katangan gendarmes, who have been based in the north of Angola for 30 years and wear Angolan uniforms.

The gendarmes, many of them second-generation soldiers, have been fighting for independence for the province of Katanga (now Shaba) since the early 1960s and have joined the guerrillas led by Laurent Kabila.

Mining sources who saw the Portuguese-speaking soldiers said that they were travelling in tracked vehicles, had tanks and heavy artillery, and bridge-building equipment which could be used in a final assault on Kinshasa.

Talks to avoid a battle for the Zairean capital had looked in danger of collapsing into farce yesterday afternoon because Mr Mobutu was unable to climb 31 metal steps

onto a South African warship for a scheduled meeting with Mr Kabila.

A member of Mr Mobutu's family said that he had refused to travel to the ship — moored in Pointe Noire, Congo — by helicopter because his doctors said the vibrations would be bad for him. But he was later driven on board using a ramp.

Mr Mobutu, 66, suffers from prostate cancer which has spread into his bones and causes internal bleeding, making it difficult for him to move around easily. President Mandela of South Africa flew to the port to host the talks which were expected to be chaired by Muhammad Sahnoun, the United Nations special envoy.

Mr Kabila was waiting with Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, in Luanda, the Angolan capital, for a helicopter to take him to the ocean rendezvous in international waters. Diplomats based in Kinshasa said last night that they hoped the meeting would lead to Mr Mobutu's agreement to go into retirement on the ground of ill health.

"That would give him an honourable exit and avoid a battle for the capital," said a European diplomat close to the talks. But members of Mr Mobutu's party, the National Movement for Revolution, and his own clan have been reluctant to agree to his departure, as rebels have been closing in on Kinshasa.

"What guarantees have we got that we won't be killed by the rebels? Mobutu is not just a man. He's a whole system," complained one member of his clan.

Locals said yesterday that the town of Kenge had been abandoned by Zairean government forces as the rebels continued their advance towards Kinshasa. The loss of the town without a fight now leaves only about 120 miles of good road between the rebels



A Rwandan Hutu, stricken with hunger, at the Biaro refugee camp after trekking through forest where thousands had fled from rebel troops

and the Government's defences outside the capital.

Washington: France is reported to have conducted a clandestine military operation to bolster President Mobutu as the rebels advance (Tom Rhodes writes).

The operation, which is said to have started within weeks of the outbreak of the rebellion in

January, involved at least three combat aircraft from the former Yugoslavia, pilots and mechanics, and the service of at least 80 Serb, French and Belgian mercenaries.

US intelligence agents and an official working for a French company used as cover for the project told *The New York Times* it was possible

that the covert operation may have been run by French intelligence without the knowledge of other branches of the Government in Paris. Jacques Rummelhardt, a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry, denied any involvement by his Government. "France condemns all mercenary activity in Zaire," he said.

## Leading players near final scene

BY SAM KILEY

LAURENT KABILA'S campaign against Zaire's dictator neared its end yesterday when he came face to face with President Mobutu Sese Seko — 32 years after fleeing to the bush to become a guerrilla fighter.

The two men met on a South African warship rolling in Atlantic waves, holding bits of a puzzle which, put together, will indicate the future of 47 million people in a country the size of Western Europe.

Mr Mobutu, 66, has closely guarded his hand, even from his family. No one knows if the ailing President, suffering from prostate cancer, will take the honourable route offered by Mr Kabila and backed by America: to retire on the ground of ill health. The alternative would be to stay on in his Tshatshi palace, watching his capital disintegrate into a bloody battle field.

Mr Kabila is the most powerful man in Zaire after capturing its economic and agricultural heartlands. With his troops a mere 150 miles from the capital, he could only have dreamt of such a meeting. His part of the puzzle is less complicated: should he allow Mr Mobutu an honourable, face-saving exit?

The temptation to "march on Kinshasa and eject him", as he had promised to do if the President did not step down, is still there. But recently he has come under heavy diplomatic pressure, particularly from Washington, to slow his advance on the capital to avoid the massive bloodshed that many fear would ensue should the fighters of his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire back Mr Mobutu's 20,000-strong presidential guard against the wall.

After three decades in obscurity at the head of various ineffective armed bands, Mr Kabila has come to world fame in seven months — an achievement his original "handlers" in Rwanda and Uganda, and his political backers in Washington, never foresaw.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Fashion trio guilty of bribes

Milan: Three top Italian fashion figures, Gianfranco Ferré, Sam Versace and Krizia, were found guilty yesterday of paying bribes to tax police.

Ferré, Versace, brother and business manager of Gianni Versace, and Krizia — real name Mariuccia Mandelli — each received suspended jail sentences of one year and two months.

All three, who argued they were the victims of corrupt officials, have paid damages roughly equivalent to the amount they gave in bribes in 1990.

Ferré handed over £125,000, Versace £100,000 and Krizia £160,000. Three others who faced charges, including Giorgio Armani, sought a plea bargain early in the case and paid damages. (Reuters)

## Killer executed

Atlanta, Alabama: A man aged 62 was executed in the electric chair for killing three people in 1977 after he was refused permission to marry a girl of 13. (AP)

## Asylum hopes

Sydney: A court here told Australia to reconsider an East Timorese man's asylum request, raising hopes for another 1,300 who have fled Indonesian rule. (AP)

## Desert ordeal

Niamey: At least 36 people died in the Niger desert after their lorry became lost in a sandstorm last week. Searchers found eight survivors. (Reuters)

## Peeper's pence

Tokyo: Yoichiro Iino, Mayor of Kitakata, said he would punish himself by halving his salary for six months for peeping into a women's bath. (Reuters)

## Close shave

Copenhagen: A bomb hidden in an electric razor and sent to a member of the Danish Bandidos biker gang was uncovered by a jail X-ray machine. (AFP)

## Brazil jails massacre policeman

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE first of 52 policemen, on trial for the massacre of 21 people in a Rio de Janeiro shantytown nearly four years ago, was sentenced to life in prison yesterday. The trial, which began last week, is expected to trigger long-overdue action against police brutality in Brazil.

Judge José Geraldo Antonio sentenced Paulo Roberto Alvaranga, a military police officer, to 449 years in prison for taking part in the killing of the Vigário Geraldo slum residents on August 30, 1993. The remaining officers will be sentenced singly in hearings expected to last for weeks.

It is the biggest human rights trial in more than a decade of civilian rule and shows that the Government of President Cardoso is committed to a "clean-up" of the security forces.

The trial of Alvaranga retraced the night when armed policemen, wearing balaclavas, raided the shantytown and left behind a pile of bodies, including eight women and five children. Police attacked the slum, above the famed Ipanema beach, to avenge the killing of four fellow officers, believed to have been murdered by drug traffickers.

Before raiding the slum, the police killed a student and a shopkeeper. Witnesses said the police spread themselves round the brickbuilt shacks and fired for at least an hour. A family of seven died as they slept, and eight people were riddled with bullets as they drank beer in a bar.

## Epidemic of corruption infects Indian coalition

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S fragile new coalition Government is being unsettled by one of the greatest corruption crises in 50 years of independence, confirming the chronic condition of the country's disintegrating political system.

So endemic has corruption become that it has produced an entire vocabulary to lend respectability to the business of bribery. This is used as a form of etiquette to ease the embarrassment of those giving and receiving backhanders. The nomenclature varies in different regions of the country.

In the large southern state of Karnataka, a bureaucrat or politician who accepts bribes is said to be willing to "take lunch". To offer lunch to a public official is a deliberately ambiguous gambit before producing a bribe. Other parts of southern and eastern India use the term *chiri-miri*, roughly translating as "salt and pepper". Another euphemism from the south, now also popular in the north, is *chai pani*, or "tea money".

Policemen who stop motorists for minor offences might ask for *chai pani*. So might an airport baggage-handler for ensuring that bags destined for Bombay do not end up in Beirut. Postmen require regular "sweeteners" — another euphemism — to stop letters disappearing.

In some regions a bribe is a *chip-chip* or a *dash*. Suitcases have taken on special significance as instruments of corruption because the biggest political crooks receive their bribes in them. Cartoonists

depicting corrupt politicians invariably place a suitcase in the picture to indicate the scale of venality involved. "Suitcase politics" is a euphemism for corrupt political practice.

The scandal currently dominating the front pages is spectacular even by the worsening standards of high-level fraud, which began in earnest during Indira Gandhi's rule in the 1970s and has reached unprecedented proportions in recent years. It involves the theft of perhaps £170 million from the northern state of Bihar, the poorest in the country, enriching politicians and bureaucrats.

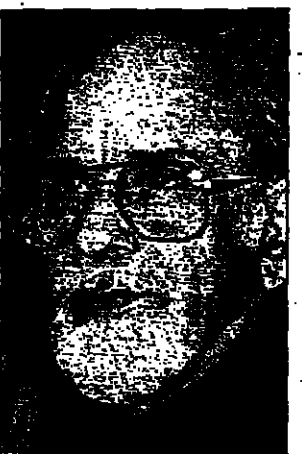
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has publicly stated its wish to prosecute Laloo Prasad Yadav, the populist Chief Minister of Bihar and president of the Janata Dal (People's Party), the principal component of the 13-party coalition Government in

Delhi. The affair involves payments by the Department of Agriculture over many years for the purchase of non-existent fodder.

Such is the parlous state of politics in Bihar, that the state's High Court ordered that no police officers or bureaucrats involved in the corruption investigations could be transferred from their jobs without court permission. It is common practice in Bihar, as elsewhere, for politicians to punish awkward senior officials by transferring them to undesirable jobs in other parts of the state.

The CBI says it has completed investigations into the involvement of 56 people, and is probing 44 others. The President of the country must sanction any prosecution of federal ministers, and the Governor of Bihar must do likewise for top local politicians. One Delhi minister, Chandradev Prasad Verma, a Janata Dal member, is among the accused. The President will consult Inder Kumar Gujral, the new Prime Minister, before deciding whether charges can be levelled.

Mr Gujral faces a dilemma. He threatens to destabilise his Government if he sanctions Mr Verma's prosecution; likewise, the prosecution of Mr Yadav could shake the administration. The CBI has often been misused by Prime Ministers to harass political opponents. But Mr Gujral is anxious not to sully his reputation for honesty by interfering with the inquiry, and will doubtless allow the law to take its course.



Gujral: prosecutions put him in dilemma

## Mandela under fire over lion-hunt scandal

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE horrors of South Africa's lion-hunting industry, in which lions in captivity are dragged, shot and skinned for "tourist trophies", are due to be shown on British television next week in a documentary whose producers have accused President Mandela's Government of failing to act to protect the animals.

Among allegations in the documentary

is that hunting operators have lured lions out of the Kruger National Park to be shot by tourists paying thousands of dollars for the pleasure. *The Cook Report* will show footage of a lioness being shot several times against an electrified fence by a tourist, who then poses with the animal before its coat is skinned to become a "trophy".

Garth Patterson, a South African environmentalist who was involved in the investigations, says that the hunted lions are being bred in captivity for the

hunter's gun. More than 300 animals are said to be involved. Mr Patterson tells of one case in which a boy takes 16 shots to kill a badly wounded lion.

In another incident, a German hunter, unable to stalk on foot, is driven into an enclosure and shoots his "trophy" from the vehicle.

Mr Patterson believes the television documentary could lead to calls for a tourism boycott of South Africa and has called on the Government to take immediate action to end the trade.

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Gambia 86p	£1.31	New Zealand 30p	49p	Uganda 90p	£1.31
Germany 16p	28p	Nigeria 70p	£1.05	Uruguay 77p	£1.31
Ghana 70p	£1.31	Norway 26p	38p	USA 10p	24p
Greece 28p	36p	Pakistan 80p	£1.33	Venezuela 56p	£1.31
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# Clinton offers tax deal to end budget stalemate

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON and Republicans in Congress were poised last night to reach a historic agreement to balance the government budget in five years, a move which would give an emphatic conservative tone to the President's second term.

The White House was on the verge of agreeing to tax cuts almost as severe as Republicans originally demanded, and to increasing cuts in the Medicare health insurance programme.

The deal, which would end months of stalemate in Congress and help to lift the paralysis which has gripped Washington since President Clinton's inauguration, has enraged liberal Democrats, who oppose spending cuts on social programmes, as well as right-wing Republicans committed to sharp tax cuts.

The compromise was heralded on Capitol Hill as a milestone in Mr Clinton's presidency, and a powerful sign that he intends to deliver the centrist "New Democrat" philosophy of his election manifesto.

It was also seen as evidence that the Republicans are determined to shake off the hard-right, radical image which damaged them so badly in November's elections.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Trent Lott, Senate majority leader, have been determined during negotiations to avoid reminding people of the intransigence of Mr Gingrich's "revolutionaries" two years ago, when they shut down government after failing to reach accord.

Despite the opposition of the radical wing of each party, it was expected last night that

Mr Clinton and Republican leaders would push the deal through. "If the leaders don't shake hands on the deal can't make it stick, we may as well give up and try another system of government", said Stephen Hess, senior political analyst with the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

However, the conservative stance of the budget may stoke up political problems for Vice-President Al Gore. Mr Gore, who wants to succeed Mr Clinton to the White House in 2000, faces a battle for the Democratic nomination with Richard Gephardt, leader of

Democrats in the House. Mr Gephardt, an unapologetic Old Democrat, is expected to use this budget as a tool to undermine support for Mr Gore within the party.

The proposed deal would eliminate by 2002 the annual deficit which America's governments have run since 1969. It would cut Medicare spending by \$115 billion (£71 billion) over that period, but would still allow \$137 billion in tax reductions.

In a resolution of one of the most controversial sticking points, the outline is understood to include a "fix" to the consumer price index, which overstates inflation. The index, which determines how fast pensions rise each year, as well as the wages of some workers in unions, will be ratcheted down by 0.25 percentage points the first year and by 0.40 the second year.

In a second controversial move which delighted financial markets, the deal also proposes to cut taxes on capital gains and large estates.

## US critical of Britain

Washington: Britain was less aggressive than its Allies in tracking down looted Nazi gold sold to Switzerland during the Holocaust, according to an American government report to be published next week (Tom Rhodes writes).

The long-awaited document will for the first time offer conclusive evidence that the Third Reich not only sent

the Swiss its plunder from national treasuries, but that it dispatched gold personal items called from individual victims of the Nazi terror.

American officials said yesterday that, although Britain was serious in conducting economic sanctions against the Third Reich, it was subsequently less eager to pursue the spoils of the Holocaust.



Linda Finch, the American pilot emulating Amelia Earhart's attempt to fly round the world, greets welcome at Bangkok airport in front of Lockheed Electra

## Halfway mark for US pilot

FROM REUTERS IN BANGKOK

LINDA FINCH, the American woman pilot, arrived in Bangkok yesterday to a grand welcome after crossing the halfway mark in her bid to emulate Amelia Earhart's round-the-world journey 60 years ago.

Ms Finch arrived from Chiang Mai in a 1935 Lockheed Electra 10E, the same model used by Earhart, who vanished between New Guinea and Howland Island in the Pacific in 1937.

"I think Amelia was a great heroine in our time. This aircraft is the same model that was built 62 years ago, the only difference is that this plane has been equipped with modern electronic gear," Ms Finch told about 200 people who had gathered at the airport to greet her.

The plane, one of only two remaining, was restored for "World Flight 1997", a \$4.5 million (£2.7 million) project. Ms Finch's trip will last two and a half months, cover 26,748 miles and span five continents. Ms Finch began her flight on March 17 in Oakland, California.

## Anti-gang plea to children from death row

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

CALIFORNIA'S only death row cell block sits like a fortress overlooking San Francisco Bay. Views from its grim windows are superb, but visitors are greeted by the sight of a chimney rising 40ft from its gas chamber.

Yards away, in a high-security visiting room, the only surviving founder of America's most dreaded street gang took another bite of microwaved chicken and said: "I was the last thing I did was to have been forgiven by the neighbourhood he terrorised."

Redemption on death row usually costs dear, but for Stanley "Tookie" Williams it has come years before his date with the executioner and in the unusual form of an apology broadcast to thousands of rapt children.

Williams, 43, co-founder of the Crips, was convicted in 1981 of four killings in South Central Los Angeles, including the execution-style shooting of a teenage store clerk. It was the gruesome climax of ten years as a ringleader of the gang mayhem that has left more than 7,000 dead in America's inner cities in the past five years alone. With 22in biceps and the neck of a bull, he was as feared as any gangster from LA to Chicago. Addicted to the drug PCP, he was especially vicious when high.

Sixteen years on he is enormous, but claims to have renounced violence and read the dictionary from cover to cover. He has also written best-selling children's books urging youngsters to give up gangs.

Last month the Greater Bethany Church in South Central erupted in applause when his recorded plea for an end to gang warfare was played at a Sunday service.

"I was their worst nightmare," he said in an interview with *The Times*. "Most bad people only have to turn through 180 degrees, but I was twice as bad. I would attack anyone. Often I'd knock them

out, but other times I'd knock them down, then stamp them out, the ground to let them know who'd hit them. I never felt one bit of remorse. That was the madness of it."

"My goal now is to appeal to kids on a level they will understand, to tell them prison is not a rise of passage or a cool place to kick back and relax, which is what I thought it was. It's degrading, lonely and disgusting."

Williams' anti-gang campaign, complete with a "Tookie" book and a website, is by far the most sophisticated effort to come from San Quentin since California resumed executions after 23 years in 1992.

Death-row epiphanies are commonplace, however, and this one has been widely scorned. One publisher called Williams' books simplistic and "a far-fetched form of celebrity worship", while Mark Fleischer, a professor of criminal justice, told the *Los Angeles Times* that inmate U-turns should be taken with "a box of salt". Teachers and black leaders on the front line of the gang wars have been more receptive. Appeals by Williams could last another four years in the meantime, he says, and lifts weights in a four by ten-foot cell.

His dream is to get back into the world and do something constructive, he says. "I will get out."

Williams' forgiveness by the area he terrorised

Williams' forgiveness by the area he terrorised



Williams: forgiven by the area he terrorised

## Police win surrender of Texas separatist

BY GILES WHITTELL

A LEADING member of the Republic of Texas separatists, succumbing to a mounting show of force by the authorities, left the group's base in the Davis Mountains yesterday and surrendered.

In full military fatigues, Robert Scheidt, who called himself the head of the group's bodyguard detachment, walked out of the heavily defended "embassy" compound and was promptly arrested on charges of organised criminal activity and hoarding weapons.

Helicopters, horses and dogs were used on Thursday night to increase pressure on the 13 people still holding out

in the name of an independent Texas after a five-day siege by 100 armed police.

Electricity to the compound was also cut off, as a non-violent, non-threatening way of showing that the police were serious about resolving this dispute, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

The earlier arrest of Mr Scheidt, 43, on weapons-related charges led to the siege last Sunday. Three of his comrades raided a neighbour's home, taking its occupants hostage and injuring one of them before insisting on Mr Scheidt's release.

Police surprised observers by agreeing to the rebels' demand.

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## Polish President looks ready to jettison Clinton-style image for Blair flair

## Labouring for a change

FOR the past 18 months, the chubby, tennis-playing Aleksander "Olek" Kwasniewski has been borrowing his political clothes from chubby, jogging President Clinton. Bill and Hillary, it seemed, were the mould for the Polish President and his sleek, ambitious wife, Jolanta. Now

that the murky past has begun to catch up on the Washington couple, the Tony and Cherie model is in vogue in Warsaw. "Left-leaning leaders come in pairs nowadays," a bright young sociologist tells me. "It's the Noah's Ark syndrome."

Mr Kwasniewski is the right generation — 43 years old — and has the appropriate rattle-bag of half-convictions. Like Bill and Tony, he is thesis and antithesis: "I sometimes say, jokingly of course, that I am an unbelieving Christian," he said recently in a comment that is sure to impress the Pope when he arrives this month for his sixth Polish pilgrimage.

Olek has absorbed a great deal of Mr Clinton: he has marketed his family life, he is ready to reorganise a busy schedule to be photographed with Michael Jackson, he has resurfaced the prompt cards that function as his biography (falsely claiming, for example, to have completed a masters degree).

He even affects a passion for the

## WARSAW FILE

by ROGER BOYES



saxophone music of Kenny G. To keep pace with Clinton chumminess, Mr Kwasniewski knuckled back Scotch, at receptions, critical journalists claim, to have spotted him tipsy at the United Nations and in Minsk.

Jolanta plays along. Like Hillary, she studied law and gets into trouble with property deals. As an estate agent she threw a few useful deals in the direction of friends from the former Communist Party.

Mr Kwasniewski's predecessor, Lech Walesa, remained something of a mystery, if only because of his muddled statements and warring courtiers.

By contrast, the Polish public knows too much about the reigning Polish First Family: that Jolanta, for example, uses sunbeds, has an obsession for buying shoes, likes Chanel No 5 because it reminds her of her mother, weighs 8st 9lb, is a good amateur dress designer with a liking for plunging cleavages and skirts that stop above the knee. Olek

prepares breakfast in the palace for his wife and daughter before heading for the tennis court.

Great energy has been applied to reinventing the President who was, a mere decade ago, a Communist minister and a fully paid-up member of the Red establishment.

His friends and advisers are familiar faces from the bad old days: Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the former Communist Prime Minister, gives him tips, Jerzy Urban, the martial law spokesman, invites him round for parties, and Jerzy Wiatr, the former ideologist who is now Education Minister, has a medal quietly pinned on his chest.

Perhaps there is some merit in a man who does not renounce his friends, despite their blighted history. Some Poles are, however, beginning to smell a rat as they see the steady advance and reappearance of career apparatchiks in state institutions and ministries: can they too have reinvented themselves?

The Bill model has worked — Kwasniewski's popularity rating is high — but may have run its course. Tony Blair's concern with constitutional re-engineering and domestic reform appears to the Polish President's team to set a fitting example for the next phase of the Kwasniewski tenure.



Aleksander Kwasniewski: he and his wife Jolanta initially reinvented themselves using America's First Couple as role models

## Kohl wrestles with faith of Eurosceptics

THE Germans are doing their best to talk the Polish Catholic Church out of its entrenched Euroscepticism. With the help of the conservative Europhile Konrad Adenauer Stiftung — the favourite think-tank of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor — the Church has set up a special European integration unit, the Studium Europa Generale.

Nevertheless, the Catholic Church, the traditional defender of the Polish nation, has been making deeply critical remarks about Poland's ambition to join the European Union.

Even the Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, has been giving warnings that European membership will sap Poland's spirituality and open the way for consumerism, drug abuse and pornography.

The Pope's advice on signing up for Europe will be closely watched during his pilgrimage which begins on May 31. The trip will be the pontiff's first official visit to his homeland since his fifth pilgrimage in August 1991. Since European accession has to be approved by referendum — and since Poles still listen to the voice from the pulpit — the Church's view is politically vital. Hence the German lobbying.



Ivana Trump: awarded \$50 million in split-up

## Trumps on verge of divorce

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

DONALD TRUMP, whose appetite for expensive divorces is legendary, was heading for another large helping yesterday as news broke here of a "final rupture" with his wife, Marla Maples.

According to the *New York Post*, which carried the story on its front page with the headline "It's Over", the Donald may soon be doing "The Split". Mr Trump, America's best-known self-made man, whose fortune has been estimated at \$2.5 billion (\$1.5 billion), married Ms Maples, America's best-known "Georgia Peach", four years ago after a vitriolic divorce from his previous wife, Ivana.

The last Mrs Trump waltzed away with more than 50 million of Mr Trump's dollars, as well as his handsome country estate in Greenwich, Connecticut. But Ms Maples, Trump-watchers calculate, could waltz away with considerably more.

Although husband and wife are tighter-lipped on the subject than America's press would like them to be, the reason for a parting of ways is believed to be relatively straightforward. A source close to Mr Trump told the paper: "He's looking for his freedom." Another source said: "Donald's life is his work, and he's not going to change. Unfortunately, he doesn't have enough time for Marla — she isn't his top priority."

## Drivers plan new French blockade

BY SUSAN BELL IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRENCH lorry drivers are threatening to blockade roads and borders on Monday in a repeat of the dispute that prompted two weeks of chaos last November, strangling the country's economy and causing serious disruption to business across Europe.

The new strike could cause serious problems for British tourists planning to spend the bank holiday in France.

The strike is being called by the two leading haulage unions, the Force Ouvrière (FO) and the Communist-led CGT. The lorry drivers believe that the Government has reneged on a deal reached at the end of November's dispute to allow lorry drivers with more than 20 years of service to retire at 55 rather than 65.

According to Roger Poletti, the fiery head of the transport division of the powerful FO union, the agreement has been structured so that only 350 drivers have been judged eligible for early retirement out of the 3,779 whom unions believe should qualify. Union leaders are disputing the fact that lorry drivers who switch between working for a haulage company and becoming owner-drivers over the 20-year period have been disqualified.

"What the Government and the haulage bosses have done to us is a theft of trust," said M. Poletti. "This time we are not going to lift the blockades until the agreement is written in marble." He added that it was likely that lorry drivers would target borders and Channel ports to cause maximum disruption.

However, Jean-Pierre Prou, the leader of the CGT union, said that the strike would be limited to Monday. "We don't want to redo 1996," he said. □ Chaotic: A group from France, Italy and Switzerland has set up a cross-border liaison committee and called for a European and national transport policy of transferring long-distance freight traffic from road to rail.

## Former leaders face Prague treason trial

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PRAGUE

THE last Communist Party leader of Czechoslovakia and two other former party officials were charged with treason yesterday for their role in the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that crushed the "Prague Spring" reforms.

All three are accused of holding talks at the Soviet Embassy on August 22, 1968, on forming a "government of workers and peasants" to replace the lawful reform-minded Czechoslovak Government. It never was formed, but the men became senior officials of the Communist Party apparatus that led the country for the next 21 years.

Milos Jakes, 74, led the party purges after the invasion and later became party leader. He was ousted in the 1989 anti-Communist revolution. Also charged were Karel Hoffmann, 72, and Jozef Lenart, 73. Each could be sentenced up to 12 years in jail.

Mr Hoffmann was director

of communications in 1968, and allowed the Russians to seize control of the communications system and effectively paralyse Czechoslovakia's defences. He was later head of the Communist trade unions. Mr Lenart, a Slovak, was Czechoslovak Prime Minister after the invasion.

The 1968 invasion ended a brief period of reform under Alexander Dubcek, and is a seminal point in recent history for both Czechs and Slovaks, who split their federation into two independent countries after the anti-Communist revolt. It strengthened Soviet political control and introduced the Soviet military presence, which finally ended in 1991.

No Communist official has yet been punished in connection with the Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, leading to widespread criticism from those who were jailed afterwards.



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## The nation's covenant with Labour

David Hope urges Tony Blair to keep his promises, for all our sakes

Six weeks is an eternity in politics. At last the election campaign is over. The nation has spoken. We wake up this morning to a new Government and a fresh start. Mr Blair and new Labour have made their compact with the British people, and they have overwhelmingly endorsed it.

The 1997 election campaign has been neither exciting nor impressive. Elections, in which the ideals of democracy supposedly achieve their highest expression, are often the occasions on which those ideals are most severely tested and tarnished. The campaign became wearisome and repetitive. The parties called for trust in themselves and their leaders, but for distrust and fear of their opponents. There was too much emphasis on immediate expediencies, too little on principles and the longer-term vision, and hardly any thorough debate on some of the important issues facing the country.

There were two significant interventions from the churches, one from the Roman Catholic bishops and one from the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, attempts at what *The Tablet* described as "the re-moralisation of political debate in Britain" which the churches and other faith communities will need to continue to promote, and to which the new Government will need to attend, if it is to harness the mood of the people.

The divisiveness and acrimony of the campaign makes all the more challenging the task now before us all — to face the future together as one nation. In addressing that task, the primary responsibility for leadership rests with the newly-elected Government. I am reminded of some words of one of my great predecessors at York, Archbishop William Temple: "Governments affect the conduct of their subjects far more by the principles implicit in their acts than by the requirements of legislation." The important point, however, is that the very requirements of legislation ought always to reflect and embody the principles. Much has been promised for a better Britain by the incoming administration. Expectations are high.

But in any healthy democracy, the task of responsible leadership is shared by the political parties in Opposition. It was Disraeli who wrote, "No system of government can be long secure without a formidable Opposition". For the "formidable Opposition" provides the necessary challenges, checks and balances, particularly for a government with a substantial majority. It would be regrettable if the Conservative Party, in particular, were to descend into a morass of recrimination and party strife. Again, there is much truth in Temple's comment that "the defence of government by a majority is not that the majority is always right; on the contrary, the only thing you know for certain about a majority with regard to any new issue is that it is sure to be a little wrong". If we are truly to see a better Britain, then as well as strong and purposeful government we shall need a vibrant Opposition.

In teaching us to pray for our rulers, the Bible recognises that those who govern justly are sharing in the purposes and work of God. Although the Bible does not prescribe democracy, nevertheless the Judeo-Christian understanding of the ambivalence of human nature strongly endorses the principles of democracy. As Niebuhr, the American theologian, put it: "Man's capacity for evil makes democracy necessary, and man's capacity for

good makes democracy possible." Such a view is endorsed by the Chief Rabbi when he writes, "Democracy, as the most effective form we know of accountability to those affected by government policies, has powerful biblical support."

One key word and concept in the Bible, used frequently in the Old Testament and taken over into the New, is that of "covenant". Overarching all other covenants is that between God and His people. And the implication is clear that it is only when any covenant mirrors the Divine that it will best promote human flourishing in freedom, responsibility and security. A covenant is the foundation upon which all right relationships are built. It goes beyond a mere contract, in which those involved enter into defined but limited mutual obligations. It is altogether richer, more profound and comprehensive than that. It represents an ongoing commitment to the relationship, in mutual loyalty, in openness and accountability, regardless of short-term self-interest. Within it, above all else, faithfulness to promises, trust and truth are fundamental.

The British people have made a covenant with new Labour. A real priority will be to ensure that the covenant principles of faith and trust are rehabilitated in the nation's political life. For as much as anything, the election campaign has demonstrated a worrying lack of trust on the part of the public towards politicians. Failure now to deliver would have serious consequences not only for new Labour, but for our whole democratic system. Promises of the "I give you my word" variety have been solemnly made. Trust has been snatched and given, and were this trust to be traduced, the basis of confidence in democracy itself would be undermined. The thunderings and lightnings of Sinai are a timely reminder to us all — both of grace and judgment.

Now is the time to resurrect Lord Nolan's *Seven Principles of Public Life*, and in particular honesty and integrity — for these are what lie at the heart of the covenant. If such a covenant is to be realised, then it demands the participation of us all. The churches will be specially concerned that the talk about social cohesion is delivered in terms of government policy.

We must begin anew from what we have in common, and establish lines of communication between all who desire the emergence of a nation in which respect, integrity, honesty and love of neighbour are at the core of our life together.

Mr Blair will need to listen and take advice from those outside as well as inside his party. He will need to ensure that in the framing of his party's legislative programme, and in his day-to-day decision-making, he does not lose sight of the longer-term vision, which goes beyond the political and economic arena and incorporates the spiritual and moral values of a renewed humanity.

There is, too, a dynamic about any covenant relationship which skilfully balances the interests and needs both of society as a whole and of the individual. It is a "living, transformative and ennobling relationship which seeks the fulfilment of God's purposes for all, and in which the art of government, as Temple so well remarked, is "the art of so ordering life that self-interest prompts what justice demands".

The covenant has been made. We wait now for its promises to be delivered — for the common good. The author is the Archbishop of York.

Peter Riddell says the Prime Minister should pick his team boldly, but not rush into policy decisions

## Action this day? Beware, Mr Blair

Mr Blair will never be in a stronger position to drop some of the obvious odds elected to the Shadow Cabinet to fit the maximum of 22 paid Cabinet posts. Like Wilson, he may intend a reshuffle in 12 to 18 months to promote promising middle-rank ministers. Mr Blair also has the chance to show the reality behind his promise of creating a non-tribal style of centre-left politics. He should appoint a Liberal Democrat or even a pro-European Tory, either as a middle-ranking minister or to a senior advisory post.

Greater dangers lie in instant policy decisions. In 1945, Attlee and his senior ministers had at least served in the wartime coalition, but in 1964, after 13 years in Opposition, Wilson was immediately confronted with a grim Treasury paper showing an unexpectedly big rise in the trade deficit. So barely 24 hours

after being appointed, Wilson, James Callaghan and George Brown secretly ruled out devaluation and opted for a temporary import surcharge. They may have had no alternative, given Labour's tiny Commons majority then. But the hasty decision to rule out devaluation fatally undermined the drive for faster growth and had to be abandoned three years later, at a high political cost.

The Blair Government does not face such a crisis, but Gordon Brown will still have to take some urgent decisions. Next Wednesday he will be pressed by Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, to raise interest rates, while Treasury officials will urge an increase in taxes in any midsummer Budget to cool the pace of expansion. Kenneth Clarke has resisted both moves, given the strength of sterling and the fall in public borrowing. However, Mr Clarke suspects that

officials will try to bounce his successor into such moves. Mr Brown could blame problems inherited from the Tories and could appear financially responsible. Mr Brown could profit from reading the cautionary tales in *The Wilson Years*, the 1964-66 Treasury diary of former chief economic adviser Sir Alec Cairncross (just published by the Historians' Press).

New governments would generally benefit from pausing and reflecting rather than acting. The pressures of governing are very different from those of campaigning, particularly for a party which has adopted such a safety-first approach to new policy as Labour. If new ministers are to stick within tight spending guidelines, they will have to think afresh. That means listening to their civil servants and consulting. They no longer have to issue a press release a day.

Labour's huge Commons major-

ity may produce problems in time, particularly as the new generation of Labour MPs is instinctively activist. In the short term, Labour should easily be able to brush aside any parliamentary opposition, particularly from the House of Lords, in implementing its constitutional reform programme. But still such a vast Commons majority and a demoralised and divided Opposition remove some of the usual checks on the power of the executive? Similar worries have been expressed after previous landings but have usually proved to be misplaced, because large majorities are often fractious. Moreover, the judiciary may prove as troublesome as the new Labour Government as it was to the Tories.

Mr Blair's advisers are at pains to argue that the landslide should not mean reverting to "old" Labour habits on spending and taxes. The Government must show that it is "new Labour" by demonstrating its "trust" with voters, notably over negotiating a deal at the Amsterdam summit next month without being accused of betrayal, and by not raising taxes generally (as opposed to the windfall levy) in Mr Brown's first Budget. These will be the first battles of the new Cabinet, which has as many rival barons, and potential diarchs, as the Attlee and Wilson Governments did. Just wait for the leaks.

## A constitutional adventure

Reform of the political system will dominate Blair's first term as it has not done since Asquith. Wish him luck



is left on the battlefield. Ragged survivors of the massacre wander a blood-drenched soil. A man stops to lift a severed head and bellow a fallen friend. This was not well done. The battle should have been fought last October and on different terrain, that of the economy and nothing but. Look at the costly grasshopper used instead — prisoners incarcerated, grammar schools pledged, farmers subsidised, spouses tax-relieved — all weapons now smashed and worthless. Where now the Tarzan of the Triple Whammy, where the Portillistas of Euroscepticism? Where my lords of Saatchi and Chillingworth? The focus reports and the soundbites are flapping in the wind, many of them shredded by friendly fire. "How sour sweet music is when time is broke."

Yet there is no science so inexact as politics. Who is to say that the Tories did not fight the right campaign? This was no ordinary election. Perhaps even a dream ticket of Pitt, Disraeli, Churchill and Thatcher could not have saved No 10. Labour's campaign was superb. We await the film of the play of the book.

While Labour gallops to its victory feast, what a desperate sight

Labour was electable and the public said to Mr Major, thanks but no thanks. It was the other guy's turn. Half the "switchers" of my acquaintance give this as their sole reason for deserting the Tories. Perhaps for the first time in memory, the true winner in a British general election was our old and dear friend, Mr Buggins.

Yet facts are facts. A majority of

Simon Jenkins

177 in the House of Commons renders the place little more than an electoral college. Unless Labour shows more enthusiasm for Commons reform than it has in Opposition, the chamber will be useless. Interest will lie in the Tories' internecine strife and in a growing indiscipline on Labour's left. Given the narrow character of Mr Blair's party base, his parliamentary party

is unlikely to stay cohesive. While nobody could accuse him of reckless policy commitments, he has created Kennedyesque expectations. Public anticipation of the new Government is near-hysterical. "What better news" may yet become the slogan of the dispossessed in months to come, unrelieved by Mr Blair's insistence that he really promised nothing. Except one thing. The early stages of the new Government will be dominated by constitutional reform. On this Mr Blair won both the argument and the election, game, set and match. It was not Mr Blair but Mr Major who made the constitution an election issue. The latter's thesis that Britain cannot tolerate a modicum of devolution, that its political economy is too fragile for the democratic and bureaucratic decentralisation now widespread on the Continent, was ludicrous. It was the more so when he was pursuing an opposite policy in Northern Ireland. Mr Major's advisers, goading him to ever-greater centralisation, should be drummed out of town.

The party he and they have led to defeat is shattered. Longevity and the arrogance of Whitehall robbed

1990s Toryism of its freshness, turning it into a metropolitan, bureaucratised, gas-and-water Thatcherism. It became a Toryism of the think-tanks, not the shires. The cities, the provinces, the local councils and academic institutions, were all treated by Mr Major's essentially Treasury view as barbarians beyond the pale.

Yet this party can build itself up from its roots. Few Tory voters appear to have switched direct to Mr Blair. Much humble pie must be eaten by Mr Major's successor, especially on devolution and local democracy. As Disraeli insisted, the Conservative Party is constantly called upon to discover in Opposition the virtues of democracy. It so neglects in power.

For Mr Blair, a grass-roots Tory revival may seem a distant threat. Yet what for the Tories is a latent opportunity is for him an immediate challenge. "Enough of talking," he said yesterday, "it is now time to do." He made constitutional reform the engine of his transformation of Britain. It will give him much trouble. Attention is already devoted to Scottish and Welsh devolution, and to the painful necessity to cede (mostly Labour) MPs in return for any devolution of power. The pledge of an elected mayor for London is less controversial but undeniably more exciting. This is new politics with a vengeance, and could in time come to permeate every town and city in the kingdom. So too should the promised end to rate-capping. The concept of devolving taxing powers extends far beyond a Scottish assembly. If democracy is to be decentralised and refreshed, the key lies in fiscal devolution. All else is constitutional play-acting.

The constitution will dominate the first half of the Blair Government as it has no Parliament since the Asquith era. This is exhilarating to those who believe the updating of British democracy is sorely overdue. New forms of local government participation, new accountability, new representation are on offer.

The franchise offers the British electors little excitement. A grubby cross with a sticky pencil hardly leaves them as heroes in the democratic drama. On Thursday, the pencil stabbed a government to its heart. But even that thrill is transient. Mr Blair's constitutional proposals could expand the range of British democracy to a degree not seen in modern times. They are the most specific change new Labour has on offer. The cause is worthy. At the start of this adventure, we can all wish Mr Blair luck.

## Port in a storm

AFTER a day watching cricket yesterday, John Major is said to be planning a continental break by way of relaxation. His sister Pat Dessoy let slip on election night that he is talking of a holiday with Norma in Portugal.

According to Dessoy, Major is planning the trip later this month



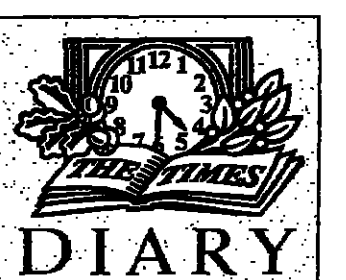
The Majors: holiday-bound.

and has already bought the air tickets — a sign that he was none too confident about victory on Thursday night.

"He always buys his tickets well in advance," said his 66-year-old sister, drawing on a Lambert & Butler cigarette. "He usually gets AFEX ones which cannot be refunded, but this time he took out a cancellation clause, just in case he got in."

Had he been re-elected, she added, Major intended to gather his close family for a celebratory lunch in Huntingdon on Bank Holiday Monday. "It would have been nice to have a Bank Holiday knees-up," she said, "but Portugal will be a consolation for him."

She added that the former Prime Minister was likely to return to old haunts in Portugal. In 1993, the Majors broke with their tradition of holidaying at Candeleda in central Spain and headed instead for a villa owned by the port-exporting Symington family, in northern Portugal's wine country. The house has seven bedrooms, 360 acres of Portugal's finest vine-



Even the rural slumber of Ambridge has been ruffled by Tony Blair's sweeping victory. For the first time this year, the BBC recorded a "topical insert" yesterday for the Archers to be transmitted in the evening. Norma Major, an Archers addict, will have been reassured to hear that, against the national trend, South Borseshire remained a Conservative seat.

### Election call

THERE was momentary panic at ITN on Thursday night when Dermot Murnaghan, a presenter, was suddenly summoned to his

wife's bedside where she was about to give birth.

Murnaghan should have been with the Labour Party at Millbank towers, and gone on afterwards to the champagne-soaked victory celebrations at the Royal Festival Hall. However, his wife produced an 8lb daughter, Molly, at London's University College Hospital at 11pm, shortly after the first result — Sunderland South — came in.

Julia Somerville stepped in and covered for Murnaghan, who is making a habit of this kind of behaviour. His first child, Kitty, was born five years ago a week before the 1992 election. "When Kitty was born I was able to get back to work in time to report on the election," said Murnaghan. "This time, Molly seemed determined to wait before making her entrance on the night itself and she got my vote immediately."

### Seeing red

WHILE Labour danced with glee in London's Royal Festival Hall, over at an election night party thrown by Charles Moore, Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, grown men wearing blue, rosettes were crying into their champagne flutes.

Emotions tumbled over when two red rosettes, worn by Tony Blair's friend Lord Hollick and the left-leaning television presenter Jon Snow, popped up amid the weeping tide of blue and erupted with joy as Michael Portillo lost Enfield Southgate.

Bruce Anderson, the Brandesque political editor of the *Spectator* who had already been involved in a fracas with one of his own side that evening, turned on



"Don't be hard on Surrey. John Major's watching."

the culprits and told them to leave the room. Ferdinand Mount, editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* and Portillo's former boss at the Number 10 policy unit, took an Etonian approach. "Do you mind," he said, addressing Hollick, "this is the *Daily Telegraph*."

For the sheer concentration of "dahlingness" on Thursday night, it would have been impossible to beat the self-satisfied departure from the Royal Festival Hall celebrations of the bearded Lords Attenborough and Putnam with the architect Lord Rogers and his wife Ruthie. Never have so many hugs, kisses, "dahlings" and "marvellous" been exchanged by so few.

### Souped up

IF THE size of Labour's majority doesn't cause him to lose weight, cabbage soup will. Chris Patten claims to have been piling on the pounds during a month of farewell feasting in Hong Kong and is trying to limit himself to the soup. In this month's *Harpers & Queen* magazine, 53-year-old Pat Patten says that, despite a recent heart attack scare, he is still bat-



Laura: simply delicious

ting against a tendency to overeat. For nutritional guidance, he need look no further than his daughter, Laura, a health and beauty assistant on the magazine who helped to arrange the interview.

But he would be advised not to attend a dinner party in her Pimlico flat — the 22-year-old is renowned for her irresistible roast potatoes.





## NOW, PRIME MINISTER

How to make the most of a landslide

While Britain basked in glorious sunshine, Tony Blair basked in victory. The weather seemed an omen for a change in the political climate. At times like these, it is tempting to ask big questions. Have the British really decided to put social cohesion before narrow individualism, as Mr Blair suggested in his brief message to the nation from the steps of Downing Street? Is the country yearning for more decency, compassion and moral renewal? And what would that mean? The answers will become clearer over the next months but Mr Blair cannot afford to spend too long in contemplation.

If the Prime Minister is to use his landslide to maximum advantage, he must exploit the margin of victory immediately. He has already shown how bold he could be in his party management; now he can transfer that audacity to the governance of the country. On the economy, on Europe, on welfare reform, on making "new" politics real, Mr Blair should act quickly.

While the country is still well-disposed, he can take the necessary unpopular economic measures that will ensure the boom does not turn into bust. Interest rates may have to rise slightly next week if only to satisfy the longstanding demand of the Bank of England, but Gordon Brown must curb the overvalued pound which is stifling Britain's exports. Mr Brown must prepare the nation for a higher tax in the July Budget as a substitute for still-higher interest rates. He need not worry about his reputation: the business community is publicly clamouring for tax increases in preference to higher interest rates and a stronger pound.

On Europe, too, Labour will, in Mr Blair's words, have to "hit the ground running". Most incoming Prime Ministers, Margaret Thatcher included, like to focus on domestic policy for a time before they raise their eyes to the wider world. Mr Blair has no such luxury. Amsterdam beckons, along with an imminent decision on a single currency. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, rejoiced in yesterday's result as a defeat for

Euro-scepticism. The Prime Minister should disillusion him: the country felt that it was safe to support Labour only because Mr Blair assured them that he did not want to take Britain into a federal Europe.

Britain's new leader will be in a commanding position in the councils of Europe. He will have a bigger and fresher mandate than any of his counterparts; and fellow politicians respect large majorities. Mr Blair has an opportunity to make alliances against further integration that were not open to John Major. He should strongly resist any attempt to push him around. This election may have been primarily about domestic policy, but it is the encroachment of the EU on such policy that so infuriates Britons. Mr Blair now has the mandate to make their case in Europe.

If the new Prime Minister is serious about reform of the welfare state, he can now put intention into action. As the Tories discovered with their pension proposals, such plans are too easily distorted to be useful electoral weapons. But Mr Blair should now embark upon a clear-headed reinvention of social security that suits the patterns of work and retirement of the new century.

Finally, he can show us what new politics really entail. He could bridge the tribal divide that separates the Centre-Left by including some Lib Dems in his Government — or at least appointing some from their ranks to positions of patronage.

If Mr Blair uses his power imaginatively, he could achieve much. In the interests of national cohesion, however, he should also use it responsibly. The elimination of the Conservatives from Scotland and Wales has ensured that the House of Commons will see little effective opposition to Labour's devolution plans. Mr Blair must resist the temptation to exploit this element of his landslide, by ramming through ill-considered proposals that fail to address the West Lothian Question. These assemblies will fundamentally alter the pattern of British governance. They have to be built to last.

## TORIES IN TRAUMA

Leadership candidates should look hard at the people's verdict

As they survey the country that they once dominated, the shattered survivors of the Tory Party are struggling to comprehend the scale of, and reasons for, their defeat. The party of the Union has been driven back to its English rural redoubts, sent homewards, to think again. The Tories will not want for leisure to consider their future; but the magnitude of Labour's proposals, especially for the constitution, will require an early and vigorous response. If the Conservative Party is to form a credible Opposition, and in time aspire to govern again, then it must learn the lessons of its defeat. It must be led, not managed. It must be inclusive, not introspective, imaginative not reactive and able to deal confidently with the confidence of Labour's new Prime Minister.

John Major's departure from the stage was moving and measured. But as the curtain comes down on one drama it must rise on a new *Revenge*. Tragedy. Difficult as the Conservatives' position is, it could get still worse. If the leadership election becomes an auction in recrimination and the inquest an excuse for further character assassination then the Tory period in Opposition will be an era not an interlude. An honest and searching debate about issues and principles should not descend into vendetta. The Tory party must quickly find a champion with a decisive view on Europe and the best ability to bring colleagues behind that view.

John Major will bequeath his successor as Prime Minister a nation prospering; but his successor as party leader will inherit a movement profoundly ill at ease with itself. As a steward of the nation's interests, he tamed inflation, presided over an economic revival, showed thoughtful radicalism in his reform of the public sector, a courageous interest in bringing peace to Ireland and an appetite for taking tough but necessary decisions on law and order.

## LIFE AFTER POLLING

When the Oval can be even better than office

Meanwhile, down at the Oval, life goes on. The British Universities, who have just beaten Sussex, played fair by John Major yesterday. Without undue difficulty they managed not to beat his favourite team, Surrey CCC, which would have been adding insult to injury. But Mr Major's announcement that he was leaving Downing Street for lunch at the Oval and then looked forward to an afternoon watching cricket in the sun was characteristic. It also explains why he is widely liked as a decent man even by those who would never vote for him.

The long, grinding election campaign, followed by a political cataclysm has been all-absorbing for those taking part. They have had time for little else. And whatever chance and mischance lie in wait for the new Government and the country in the new Parliament, this Mayday election has become a date to remember in political history.

But an older tribal wisdom also puts these great events in perspective. Like the slave riding beside the triumphant Roman general to remind him that he too was just a mortal. When the sun goes in and the stormy winds blow, as they soon will in a climate that can be as fickle as politics, this will be

the day to warm the memory. There was the Guinea Meeting at Newmarket, cricket from county grounds almost as famous as the Oval to the village greens of Mr Major's eternal England, and coaches were driving against the flow to Wembley for today's rugby league cup final, where the new Prime Minister may make his first appearance at a national ritual to present the cup.

Bluebells and lilac are out for the merriest floral month of the year. Even for those who are sunbathing in the city centres rather than sunbathing early in the layby, May can be lovely in window boxes and parks. Of course the election was a momentous event, and the Members of the new Parliament have important work to do. But politicians are human too. They may not always seem so, and some of the modern cadre of professional politicians who have never done anything but politics appear as inhuman as Daleks. But there are better things for them to do on the May Bank Holiday than electioneering. Representative democracy is made easier if the representatives share the common humanity of their electors. So Mr Major's escape from the cares of state to the Oval sets a good example to his successor.

## Labour's landslide and a way ahead for the Tories

From Sir Tim Rice

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative I congratulate Tony Blair on his staggering election success and draw comfort from the fact that he has been elected on largely Conservative policies.

It is an enormous tribute to both John Major and to Margaret Thatcher that the British political climate has been changed to such an extent over the past 18 years that a Labour Party, transformed out of all recognition, can achieve such an overwhelming success.

If Mr Blair and his team recognise this fact they have every chance of continuing the great work of their illustrious predecessors. I trust that Mr Blair has campaigned on what he believes and that, if this is correct, he will in the future be able to stand by these beliefs, inarticulate though they have on occasion been. He will know that a healthy Opposition is vital to the country's wellbeing and can only thrive if it knows what it is opposing.

I hope he puts tampering with our ancient constitution on the back burner and realises that when push comes to shove most of us wish to be governed by British representatives.

Yours faithfully,

TIM RICE,  
c/o The Four Seasons Hotel,  
New York, NY 10022,  
May 2.

From Mr Eric Chalker

Sir, The Conservative Party is in no fit state to start an immediate fightback. The sooner this is recognised the better will be our chances when the opportunity comes.

For far too long fundamental questions about the party's structure, lack of democracy and inability to attract new members have been kept off the agenda. Our interests have been badly served by those who have blocked attempts at reform in the face of mounting evidence that the party was rotting from within.

Robin Hoodson, chairman of the National Union, has started examination of some key issues, but reforming the National Union on its own will not be enough. Nor will allowing member involvement in leadership elections. A full constitutional review is required.

Much attention has focused on Europe, but the party does not even have a mechanism for resolving what is clearly a great issue of our time.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC CHALKER,  
Executive Committee,  
National Union of Conservative  
and Unionist Associations,  
21 Ingleside Close, Beckenham, Kent,  
May 2.

## Canadian election

From Mr C. Mark Dixon

Sir, Sadly, I cannot agree with your leader writer (April 30) that "the fractious bitterness over Quebec separatism has begun to ebb".

Legislation passed in Quebec permits only one referendum on independence before another provincial election, and while the separatist Government could theoretically pass new legislation permitting that, it would prefer to wait and try to get its financial house in some better order. If the Parti Québécois is re-elected in the next provincial election — as seems highly likely — I believe that another referendum is inevitable.

As you argue, Mr Chrétien can indeed claim success on the economy (albeit with high levels of structural unemployment); but he has been abysmal in building national unity. He was passive in last year's referendum campaign and has only joined a legal challenge to the Quebec referendum law when forced to do so by a private citizen who was a former separatist. He continues to press for a "distinct society"; but this has already been rejected twice by the rest of Canada and will simply open up old wounds rather than address the underlying problem.

Born near and raised in Montreal, and in continual touch with Canadian affairs, I am convinced that a break-up of the country is now inevitable. It is merely a matter of time.

Yours sincerely,

C. MARK DIXON,  
Boutells Farm, Henny Road,  
Lammarsh, nr Bures, Suffolk,  
April 30.

## Not off the hook

From Miss Helen Tyler

Sir, I and my four fellow second-year physics undergraduates at St Hilda's College were delighted to discover from your report, "One vote prevents male dons joining all-women college" (April 24), that St Hilda's no longer had any physics Fellows. We had been gleefully preparing for a stress-free, work-free term.

Imagine our dismay when we returned at the beginning of term to find our two (female) Fellows still employed, alive and well and ready to keep our noses to the grindstone.

Yours faithfully,

H. E. TYLER,  
St Hilda's College, Oxford,  
April 26.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Church's welcome to its children

From Mr Steve Pearce

Sir, Susan Barnard (letter, April 28) is in good company when she wonders why the Church of England only offers communicant status to children once most of them have left. It is, however, for a different reason that these rules have now changed.

Bishops may now allow parishes to introduce patterns of work with children which include their admission to Holy Communion at a younger age, before confirmation, on the basis of their baptism. Confirmation can then become associated with the beginning of adult ministry rather than Communion.

Our concern in the Church is to complement our many excellent children's groups by giving children every opportunity to feel they belong — because they do — and to meet their spiritual needs as far as we are able; and Holy Communion is a great spiritual support for all Anglicans, young or old.

Yours faithfully,

STEVE PEARCE  
(Diocesan Adviser in  
Children's Work),  
Diocese of Southwell,  
Dunham House,  
Southwell, Nottinghamshire,  
April 29.

From Mr James Behrens

Sir, In the early centuries of the Church of England confirmation was not a necessary precondition for admission to Holy Communion. The rule was brought in by Archbishop Peckham in 1281, and was directed against the "damnable negligence" of parents content only to have their children baptised.

In the early Church confirmation was readily available for young children. Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII and later Queen Elizabeth I, was baptised and confirmed at the same ceremony on September 10, 1533, when she was but four days old.

With the Reformation confirmation came to be seen as a reward for merit rather than as a gift of grace. The Prayer Book of 1549 required candidates for confirmation to be able to say the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the articles of their faith, and to be able to answer various questions from the short catechism. The current Canon B27 has very similar requirements.

Many dioceses specify that children should be aged ten or even older before being confirmed. But the dioceses of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and Oxford both allow children to be confirmed from the age of seven, provided that they will thereafter receive Holy Communion with their families, and continue to be brought up in the Christian faith.

As the Ely report of 1971 remarked, "Confirmation is the confirmation of the candidates rather than the confirmation by them of their faith". If the Church of England were to recognise that confirmation is a gift of grace rather than a reward for merit, children would be confirmed, and would then be able to participate with their families fully in the Holy Communion service from a much younger age than is usually the case.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES BEHRENS  
(Author, *Confirmation: Sacrament of Grace*,  
Gracewing Fowler Wright, 1995),  
13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
April 28.

From Mrs Anna R. FitzPatrick

Sir, Catching them early at a "more impressionable" age (Mrs Barnard's words) could be considered as taking advantage of a young mind. Surely it would be better to raise the age of first Communion so that the commitment to Christianity is more considered and likely to be longer lasting.

I became a member of the Church of Scotland at 28. In many ways I believe it is part of growing up to reject the Church in one's teens along with most other things associated with authority.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNA R. FITZPATRICK,  
4 The Hawthorns,  
Finch Road,  
Berkenhamstead, Hertfordshire,  
April 28.

## Politics and farmers

From Mr P. C. Thompson

Sir, Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton (letter, April 26; see also letter, April 29) should be careful about using the word "always" when referring to the NFU's political neutrality. NFU's sponsored by the NFU sat in four parliaments between the two world wars: all sat as Conservatives.

Yours faithfully,  
P. C. THOMPSON,  
16 Edgar Street, Worcester,  
May 1.

## Time warp

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, Why did you print most of the April 2 Sun and Moon times today? Have the election results made you so keen to turn the clock back?

Yours faithfully,  
JIM PLATTS,  
3 Station Road,  
Willingham, Cambridge,  
May 2.

From Dr Philip Allott

Sir, The ever-wise British electorate may have created the possibility that Tony Blair will complete Margaret Thatcher's half-revolution — something which the astute and benevolent John Major was unable to induce an old-regime Conservative Party in Parliament to do.

The character of British society has been profoundly changed since 1979 and Britain is now leading the Western world into new stages of the history of democracy and capitalism. It remains to engage the new kind of society with the values, efforts and ambitions of the British people as a whole — in this country, in Europe and beyond.

Yours truly,  
PHILIP ALLOTT,  
Trinity College, Cambridge,  
May 2.

From Mr Robert Parkinson

Sir, In my opinion this election has not been a success for the Labour Party but only the loan of trust for which Mr Blair has asked.

The achievement will be at the next election, if Mr Blair can substantiate his claim that he can turn the country's fortunes around just as he has transformed the Labour Party. Then he will have deserved the trust of the British people and the huge number of seats that his party has won.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PARKINSON,  
49 Abingdon Road,  
Barming, Maidstone, Kent,  
May 2.

From Mrs Ann Ellis

Sir, If Camelot can tell us how many lottery winners there are within an hour or so surely the time has come for electronic voting, giving instant results. I write this with bleary eyes, having watched results coming in until the early hours.

Yours faithfully,  
A. ELLIS,  
20 Grangeways Close,  
Northfleet, Kent,  
May 2.

From Mr Christopher Fernie

Sir, The election results have at least given the Conservative Party one crumb of comfort: the electorate will believe it when it claims that it is the party of one nation — England.

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. FERNIE,  
40 Grosvenor Way,  
Horwich, Bolton, Lancashire,  
May 2.

From either side, gives his clients good service, he may expect to be employed again and recommended to others; if he fails, he does not deserve to get any work. If, as a building surveyor — though admittedly in a highly specialised niche — I find some of my work being taken by architects, because my clients think that the architects will do the work better, I blame myself, not the architects.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ANSTEE,  
Anstee, Horne & Co  
(Chartered Surveyors, Rights of Light and Party Wall Consultants),  
31 Newbury Street,  
St Bartholomew's, EC1,  
May 1.

## Building design

From Mr John Anstee

Sir, Mr Hugh McIlveen, FRIBA (letter, April 29; see also letters, April 22), says that "during a long and rigorous course of study architects are trained to design buildings". A cynical building surveyor might reply that it is a pity that the training does not produce more obviously pleasing results. To be trained does not mean that one can necessarily do a job requiring aesthetic inspiration, and some great buildings have been designed by people who are not legally entitled to call themselves architects.

A little less inter-professional jealousy would be a good thing. If a pro-

## Doctors' apologies

From the Chief Executive of The Medical Defence Union

I read with concern your report of Lord Woolf's speech to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting ("Woolf calls for reform of health disputes", April 24) in which he drew attention to the widely held belief that medical staff are reluctant to give an apology or an explanation to a patient affected by an adverse incident, because they are concerned that to do so would prejudice their position with the medical defence bodies in the event of a claim.

The MDU, the UK's largest medical defence body, has been advising its members for nearly forty years that the patient is always entitled to a prompt, sympathetic and, above all, accurate account of the facts. An appropriate apology is an act of common courtesy and not an admission of liability. Most patients choose not to pursue a complaint or a claim because the doctor has given them an immediate explanation and apology. Our members do not prejudice their position in following this advice.

Yours sincerely,  
M. T. SAUNDERS,  
Chief Executive,  
The Medical Defence Union Limited,  
3 Devonshire Place, W1,  
April 25.

## Nesting habits

From Mrs Geoffrey Burnard

Sir, Mr Phil Ridgway (letter, April 25) can relax about the unorthodox behaviour of his house martins.

Last year our pair of cockatiels kept laying infertile eggs. This year we introduced another male and they now have a convivial *ménage à trois*. All three birds took turns sitting on the eggs and now do the same in elevating the cockatiel chicks.

There is no political correctness in our aviary.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIET BURNARD,  
Freefolk House,  
Winchester, Hampshire,  
April 25.

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, Three house martins building a nest? It must be a *ménagerie à trois*.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN SULLIVAN,  
St Mary's Vicarage,  
42 Charlotte Road,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
April 25.

cal defence body, has been advising its members for nearly forty years that the patient is always entitled to a prompt, sympathetic and, above all, accurate account of the facts. An appropriate apology is an act of common courtesy and not an admission of liability. Most patients choose not to pursue a complaint or a claim because the doctor has given them an immediate explanation and apology. Our members do not prejudice their position in following this advice.

Yours sincerely,  
M. T. SAUNDERS,  
Chief Executive,  
The Medical Defence Union Limited,  
3 Devonshire Place, W1,  
April 25.

## Pay per view?

From Dr C. W. Coen

Sir, I am alarmed by the "reader survey" I was asked to complete in one of the British Library reading rooms yesterday. From a range of possible future fees (report, April 30) I was expected to select the three that fit the following categories: "reasonable", "expensive" and "I would no longer visit the library". The absence of a box marked "unreasonable in principle" seems likely to skew the results.

Furthermore, I was asked to classify possible charges for a "flat fee per reader pass" without being informed whether this pass would apply to one visit or to one year.

To add infelicity to inadequacy the questionnaire also tried to establish how strongly I agree with various unintelligible statements such as "Visiting the British Library is a uniquely different experience": it certainly was yesterday.

Yours faithfully,  
CLIVE COEN,  
Biomedical Sciences Division,  
King's College London,  
Strand, WC2,  
May 1.











## Common wealth

IT WAS firing that a concert by rock bands from Canada and New Zealand should take place at the Empire, which on Thursday night hosted scenes of expatriate passion to match the political fervour raging outside.

Auckland's Mutton Birds, working themselves hoarse on a seemingly open-ended tour of Britain, were back as guests at a venue they headlined some weeks before, and put their account further into credit in the first half of an evening of articulate rock'n'roll.

Of the material from their upcoming album, *Envy of Angels*, the warmest hand went to the engaging recent single *Come Around*. By then, Don McGlashan's band had restated their ability to merge fine melodies, absorbing lyrics and well-read influences from the Beatles to the Birds. Particularly effective was *A Thing Well Made* with its story-line — about a man who sells sporting goods — and vague air of address, heightened by McGlashan's euphonium.

Six albums into a hugely successful domestic career and 11 years after forming in Kingston, Ontario, the Tragically Hip remain under-achievers in these parts. But you would not have known that from the rabid, near-perfect enthusiasm of this crowd, as leader Gordon Downie announced they were here to "celebrate your victories and cancel your defeats".

## POP

Tragically Hip  
Mutton Birds  
Empire, W12

The lack of wider media awareness of their potent guitar attack and literate touch means that audiences simply cannot hear what they are missing. But among friends who cheered their every move, they combined the unalloyed energy of an R.E.M. with a cerebral lyrical approach, fourth-fifths of the band focusing purely on their instruments while Downie presented a magnetic combination of the urbane and the unbridled. *Giftpop* and *7000 Calfing*, the latter "a song about unlimited potential", were among the most effective of the new batch.

This indomitable performance confirmed the Tragically Hip's continuing readiness for the big league. A decade down the line that status may be denied them, but it will not be for lack of idiosyncratic charm. Downie only has to announce an unlikely love song about a dentist in the British Navy stationed in the Falkland Islands and you simply have to listen.

PAUL SEXTON

## Let's praise Caesar as they bury him

What a tragic spectacle it has been. A leader brought low, starting into the abyss, battling against the odds to hold on to the reins of power. A hostile press piling on invective with every edition. Mistakes from years back being muck-raked by gleeful enemies. His closest lieutenants secretly plotting to oust him. And now even ordinary folk — his own people! — turning against him.

Yes, it has been a rotten week for Julian Spalding, the flamboyant but woefully beleaguered director of Glasgow's galleries and museums. For, while most of the nation was distracted by a minor tussle elsewhere, the art world has been watching — entranced, horrified — a war unfolding in Glasgow.

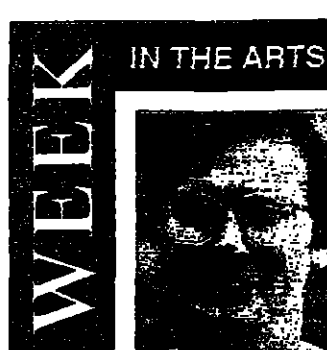
Britain has a proud tradition of wild, wilful and waspish museum directors. Think of Elizabeth Esteve-Coll's years of merry hell at the V&A; or her predecessor Sir Roy Strong's autocratic antics (being deliciously relished at the moment in his newly published diaries). Think of Tim Clifford, Spalding's counterpart in Edinburgh, and the ass he made of himself over *The Affair of Getty* and the Graces.

But not even the most wrinkled gallery-watcher can recall a muse-

um chief being in so much hot water, steaming in from so many different directions, as Spalding is now. And the fact that Spalding probably has more absolute power than any other individual in the British art world only adds to the excitement. This is the man in complete command of Glasgow's 1.5 million artworks, spread over some of Scotland's most famous galleries; a man with a £300,000 annual purchasing budget.

Let's catalogue his problems. First, Glasgow City Council is investigating a dossier, compiled secretly by some of his own managers, that lists the director's alleged shortcomings. It makes lively reading. It points out, for example, that Spalding has accepted gifts from artists whose works he has bought for Glasgow's museums. In particular, Spalding received a wedding present of a painting from John Bellamy — 22 of whose paintings have been purchased for Glasgow during Spalding's time in charge.

Spalding doesn't deny the gifts, and would certainly not be the first gallery boss to own art privately. Indeed, some see this as an admirable sign that a chap really is committed to the kind of art he inflicts on the public. But the Museums Association guidelines



RICHARD MORRISON

suggest that "professionals must neither solicit nor accept a gift of significant value from an artist with whom the professional has come into contact through any kind of collaboration involving the institution".

Spalding is also under fire for making redundant most of his 50 curators. His critics even snipe at him for spending public money on trips to Barcelona and New York to woo Hockney. He has been lambasted in the Scottish press for a £9.5 million lottery bid to turn the Kelvingrove Gallery into what the snuffy Glasgow critics call a "Disney World of art".

His pet project, the Gallery of Modern Art which opened a year ago, has also been ridiculed by many journalists for its resolutely middle-brow stance: one critic called it "the worst modern art gallery in the world", which is an accolade that takes some earning. And he has been roundly condemned for seeking to lend items from Glasgow's Burrell Collection to galleries overseas. In contravention of Sir William Burrell's will, a Parliamentary Commission, no less, will soon debate that matter.

On top of all this, Glasgow's city auditors are investigating an alleged £60,000 ticket fraud at a Charles Rennie Mackintosh exhibition. Spalding's department is not under suspicion, but the matter only adds to the air of crisis in Glasgow's museums.

How did Spalding make himself so many enemies? Being English doesn't help. But Scottish anglophobia is not at the root of this. The fact is that Spalding — an old-fashioned romantic socialist and a highly articulate critic of all that's elitist and clique-ridden in the art world — has run into trouble partly because he has tackled head-on the problems that affect every gallery in the land.

For instance, his determination that Glasgow's modern art muse-

um should not be yet another quasi-Tate Gallery shrine to avant-garde conceptual art of the pickled sheep variety, and his plan for interactive technology at Kelvingrove, both spring from an admirable desire to make galleries as accessible as possible. He thinks art should be fun, not stuffy. His shedding of curators was ruthless — but this is what happens when a city that once professed a huge arts commitment suddenly has to make an £80 million budget cut.

Spalding even has a reasonable excuse for sending bits of the Burrell Collection on foreign tours: Glasgow won't be able to host big touring shows unless it lends its treasures in return. And he is arguably doing the art world a service by focusing attention on the larger question: how much should great museums, and even governments, be bound by the wishes of dead benefactors?

All of which may not be enough to save Spalding. The knives are out: no doubt about that. But in a week when so many mediocrities have been shunted out of public life it would be a pity if a man of flair were to be lost. If I were Spalding, though, I would consider collecting football stickers rather than paintings in future.

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## FOOTBALL 28

Ferguson goes in search of morning glory

# SPORT

SATURDAY MAY 3 1997

## RACING 30-31

Entrepreneur can make killing in 2,000 Guineas



# Robson ponders Barcelona plea to stay

By Oliver Holt

BOBBY ROBSON was last night caught in a new tug-of-war for his services after Barcelona reacted to the overtures being made to him by Everton. The Spanish club gave him fresh assurances that he would still be the coach at the Nou Camp stadium next season.

Some reports yesterday claimed that Everton would announce today that the former England manager was to be the successor to Joe Royle, who left the club last month, but Robson said last night that he was angered and astonished by that suggestion.

Speaking from his home in Sitges, just south of the city, Robson

said that he had not even begun negotiations with the under-achieving Merseyside club. Moreover, he was still mulling over his future with Barcelona after more promises were made to him this week, after the interest from Everton, that he would see out the second year of his two-year contract.

"There is still a lot of football to be played here," Robson said. "We have got seven games left and we are in two cup finals, so any talk of me joining another club is really very inappropriate at the moment."

"I have not started negotiations with Everton, although, obviously, I am aware of their interest and it is an attractive prospect. But, at the moment, I am still under contract

to Barcelona and I need to see more clarification about the situation as they see it next year.

"The other thing to bear in mind is that my thoughts are very much on the Spanish cup final, which is due to be played on June 28, and, by then, the Premiership players would be reporting back for pre-season training. That would not be ideal. One more thing is that I will be 65 on my next birthday."

Robson has led the Catalan giants to both the Cup Winners' Cup final and the Spanish Cup final in his first season in charge in Spain, an impressive double that Barcelona have not achieved for several decades. However, in the frenzied atmosphere that reigns in

Spanish football, his team's failure to keep pace with Real Madrid in the race for the league championship has led to widespread rumours that he will be displaced by the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal, at the end of the season.

Peerless United ..... 28

Premiership guide ..... 28

In recent weeks, the premature departure of Robson appeared to have become a formality, after Van Gaal started dropping strong hints that he would be taking over at a "big city club near the sea", and elements of the Barcelona hierar-

chy seemed to suggest the same thing.

Robson is thought to have met the Everton chairman, Peter Johnson, in Spain a fortnight ago and Johnson has made no secret of the fact that the man who has won titles with PSV Eindhoven and FC Porto since leaving England is at the top of an ambitious list of choices, which also features Jürgen Klinsmann, Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, and Fabio Capello, Robson's rival at Real Madrid.

But Robson, who refused to yield to his own desires when Sir John Hall offered him the job of replacing Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United earlier this season, is now facing another quandary after Bar-

celona's new attempts to persuade him to stay.

The club is thought to have assured him within the past two days that, even if Van Gaal is brought in next season, he will assume a watching brief and that Robson would remain in charge of first-team affairs. In many respects, he is keen to see out the remaining year of his contract in Spain and continue the sunshine lifestyle he is enjoying before slipping into retirement.

However, he has yet to be given proper clarification of Van Gaal's role and is wary of a scenario developing where the merest hint of vulnerability from his Barcelona side next season would result in an

irresistible clamour for the Dutchman to replace him.

Van Gaal, for his part, has told Dutch sources that he has been promised overall charge of the coaching duties and that Robson would be responsible to him. Without that mandate, he is unlikely to be willing to move to the club. Tommy Burns was last night understood to have been dismissed as manager of Celtic. Yesterday, the man who was appointed to the post in 1994 found that there was no longer an acceptable future for him at the club. It is rumoured that he may have been offered a post dealing with youth development, but was not prepared to suffer such a diminution of his duties.

## Hendry hits semi-final black spot

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN HENDRY, the title-holder, and James Wattana enter the closing two sessions of their semi-final in the Embassy world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, today level at 8-8 — and, for once, Hendry appears vulnerable.

Hendry, an overwhelming favourite to win the title for the seventh time in eight years, led 5-3 after the opening exchanges on Thursday evening, but performed appreciably below his best on the restart as Wattana was allowed to force his way back into contention.

When Hendry, unbeaten in 28 consecutive matches at the championship, moved 7-3 ahead with a 101 break, he threatened to swamp an opponent who has beaten him on only four of their 18 meetings.

At 8-5, Hendry seemed certain to end the day holding a healthy advantage but, even

jaws, Wattana gratefully put together an 82 break and, subsequently, tied the scores at 8-8 with a clearance of the last two reds to pink — including a fluke on the yellow — in the final frame of the afternoon.

In falling 11-5 behind to Ken Doherty, Alain Robidoux discovered that maintaining concentration can be just as big a problem as combating the intensifying pressure.

The French Canadian has been, consistently personified this season, but, with the exception of an appearance in the final of the German Open five months ago, he has not been required to remain focused for more than four or five days at a time.

On day 14 of this championship, Robidoux's competitive spark was absent, his determination blunted and the quality of his potting nothing like anything that had preceded it.

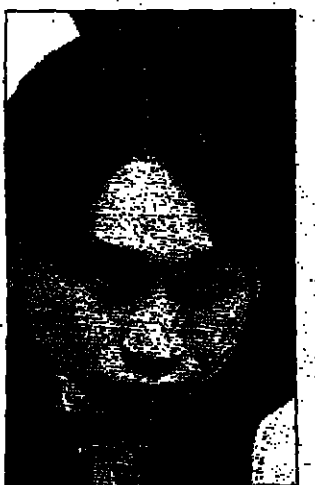
With Doherty concentrating harder, and generally much fresher, it was no surprise that he won seven of the eight frames in the second session to transform a 4-4 overnight deadlock into a sizeable lead.

The first mistake of many from Robidoux came in the opening frame. Trailing 45-34, he failed to clip the penultimate red to a top pocket. Doherty crisply cleared with 43 and then went 6-4 up, thanks to a 54 break directly after a weak safety shot by Robidoux.

Having rallied from a 43-0 deficit in the eleventh frame, with a 44 break, Robidoux was poised to recover to 6-5, but, using the rest, he again failed on a key red. Doherty cleared the colours to lead 7-4 before winning the next two disjointed frames. Robidoux stopped the rot by compiling a 63 break to end Doherty's six-frame winning sequence, but this was only a temporary interruption to the one-sided nature of the contest. Doherty eventually forged on to lead 11-5 when Robidoux, shading the sixteenth frame 64-31, had unfortunately missed an elementary brown off its spot.

Doherty, who soundly defeated Steve Davis, the six-times champion, with a full session to spare in the second round, was left needing six of the scheduled eight frames last night in order to inflict a similar ignominy on Robidoux.

207.2-2.5. Semi-final: K. Doherty (1st) leads A. Robidoux (Cen) 11-5. S. Hendry (2nd) level with J. Wattana (1st) 8-8. 10.30pm. TV: BBC2. Today: 8.30T. 1.20pm. BBC2. 10.30am. 5.15pm, 8.05pm. 10pm. Tomorrow: BBC2. 2pm, 7.25pm.



Wattana: renewed hope

then, he was not displaying the authority or confidence around the table that has become his trademark. In addition, his overambitious shot-selection policy provided Wattana with renewed hope.

Wattana, who had stolen the twelfth frame on the black with a 45 clearance, after Hendry had missed a red he would normally stroke in without alarm, launched his comeback by prevailing in a scrappy fourteenth. Hendry's frustration at his own poor form, and an inability to shake off a rival who was not playing to a particularly high standard himself, then manifested itself in an attempt to roll the opening red of the fifteenth frame across the top cushion and into a corner pocket, when safety was clearly a more sensible option.

The red remained in the



Donald directs a full-blooded appeal for leg-before to the umpire but Yates is already on his way from the crease

## Lancashire dig deep for survival

By Alan Lee  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (Lancashire won toss). Scores tied. Lancashire (2pts) beat Warwickshire by losing fewer wickets

THEY still bear only a passing resemblance to the irresistible force of cup cricket they were but, when presented with a match that they had to win to stay alive in a competition they have grown used to dominating, Lancashire scrapped like starving tigers. They survived, though it was memorably close.

A week ago it would hardly have seemed possible. Lancashire had held the Benson and Hedges Cup for two years and run up an unbeaten sequence of 16 games. Suddenly, they lost two in successive days and, yesterday, they were one good blow away from a third defeat and instant elimination.

That they clung on to life amid last-ball drama, while Yorkshire were winning in similar fashion at Derby, keeps what was demonstrably the toughest of the zonal groups as the most competitive. Not one team is yet sure

to proceed and all five county sides retain hope.

Warwickshire, apparently beaten when they subsided to 88 for six in pursuit of 209, rallied so effectively through Trevor Penney and Graeme Welch that their target had come down to 17 from 21 balls when the under-rated Penney was seventh out.

Welch, undeterred, reduced the equation to six from two overs. He had lost another partner, though. Tony Frost bowled in trying to pull Ian Austin, and when he sacrificed the strike from the first ball of

the penultimate over, Wasim Akram bowled five venomous, ruthless deliveries to Allan Donald.

One over left, five runs wanted and two wickets in hand. Austin began with a yorker before Welch drove him straight and the game, perhaps Lancashire's cup season, turned on an heroic stop at long-on by Graham Lloyd, turning four into two. Welch could manage only one off the third ball, Donald was bowled by the fourth and Gladstone Small, the last man, failed to score from the fifth.

## Russell escapes

JACK RUSSELL, the Gloucestershire and England wicketkeeper, will not be punished over his forthcoming autobiography.

Russell upset cricket authorities by not making any changes to the text before a serialisation earlier this week in a national newspaper and publication of the book on May 19.

But, after referral to Gerard Elias QC, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket

Board discipline committee, Lord's has clearly decided to let the matter pass in an attempt to defuse the furor surrounding Jack Russell's *Unfinished*.

The book contains criticism of the former chairman of selectors, Raymond Illingworth, and the England captain, Michael Atherton, among others, but can also be seen to be fair comment from a respected player on matters of no great secrecy.

Small made good contact with the last ball but drove straight to Richard Green at deep cover and had no chance of making it back for the second.

Warwickshire were beaten in spite of an awesome exhibition of pace bowling from Donald, who came on at first change and plucked out Lancashire's top three for virtually nothing. Using his head more than his strength, Donald exploited the uneven pace and bounce through an impeccable line, augmented by swinging yorkers, to finish with five for 25.

Lancashire declined to 96 for five with John Crawley completing a shocking week in which he has managed two runs from three innings. Austin came to the rescue with a calm 35 and Wasim, captaining the side, played with responsible composure for his unbeaten 52.

It was not a forbidding total to defend but Wasim then struck in his first over and Peter Martin, another who may have a place in the one-day internationals, took out Moles and Hemp with immaculate full-length outswings.

## Raging Bulls charged up for revenge

By Christopher Irvine

ON A baking afternoon 12 months ago at Wembley, there was no pause for breath as St Helens overhauled a 26-12 deficit to beat Bradford Bulls in the greatest comeback in 99 years of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. The same combatants, a similar forecast and a keener anticipation created by their rivalry last year are fitting ingredients for the centenary final today.

Since losing that epic final 40-32, Bradford have strengthened their side, with seven new faces introduced since last year. A matchstick barely separates the sides, although with appetites whetted by winning the Challenge Cup and Super League last year, St Helens, if anything, are hungrier still.

The precision of Bobbie Goulding's high kicks, which tormented Nathan Graham, spectacularly undid Bradford last year. Instead of Graham today, there is the solidly correct presence at full back of Stuart Spruce, who should ensure that the Bulls are not lured into that particular trap again.

Off the field and on it, Bradford have come such a long way in a short time that, if they are to progress further, they must give foundations to their hype. Above all, they possess the physical strength and indefatigable characters, such as James Lowe, at hooker, and Steve McNamara, at loose forward, to win their first Challenge Cup final since 1949 — provided that St Helens can be outthought in the key forward battle.

As the teams toured the stadium yesterday, both coaches were playing a cat-and-mouse game. In naming his side, Matthew Elliott of Bradford, said specifically that it was his prerogative to alter it at kick-off and, therefore, it would be no surprise to see Graeme Bradley switched from centre to half back, outside Robbie Paul.

Similarly, Bradford will only discover an hour before-hand whether Alan Hunte's recovery from a hamstring tear has been speedier than St Helens have led them to believe. With or without their in-form centre, the suspicion is that, if Bradford's physical presence can be contained, St Helens should impose their speed on Wembley's broad pitch in the manner that they did last year.

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, has been warning darkly all week of the theory that a side has to get beaten in a final in order to win one. "I hope it gets proved inconclusive," he said. "Bradford are a big, powerful team, who intimidate with their sheer power and size. There's no point having speed if you are getting

bashed." If Hunte is ruled out, Andy Haight will probably start at centre, although, on the right side, Haight and Darren Arnold were a far from convincing pair in the defeat of Castleford Tigers six days ago.

By switching the raw-boned Danny Peacock to the wing and moving Paul Loughlin inside him, Bradford have a formidable duo to prey on any weaknesses. Elliott has also preferred experience in choosing Bernard Dwyer at prop, ahead of Tahiri Reihana.

More than any player, Loughlin does not wish to become the unluckiest at Wembley; he lost in finals with St Helens three times and twice with Bradford would establish an unenviable record. The Bulls are dismissing such thoughts. Whereas they went into the final a year ago on a losing run, they are unbeaten this season, lead St Helens at the top of the Super League and timed their return to form, after a couple of shaky

### DETAILS

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce, P Cook, G Bradley, P Loughlin, D Peacock, R Paul, G Torrington, B McDermott, J Lowe, B Dwyer, S Nickle, S Knox, S McNamara. Substitutes: M Calland, T Reihana, P Medley, A Elsom.

ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, A Hunte or A Haight, P Newlove, A Sullivan, Marny, H Goulding, A Penning, K Cunningham, J Givell, C-Joy, C Morley or D McVey, A Hammond. Substitutes (from): V Melville, I Pickavance, A Hordley, P Anderson, Hugh McVey. Referee: S Cummings (Widnes).

TELEVISION: BBC1: Grandstand

PATHS TO FINAL: Bradford: Fourth round: beat Hunslet (a) 62-0. Fifth round: beat London (a) 24-12. Quarter-final: beat Oldham (a) 35-12. Semi-final: beat Leeds (at Huddersfield) 24-10. St Helens: Fourth round: beat Wigan (h) 26-12. Fifth round: beat Hull (h) 34-0. Quarter-final: beat Leigh (a) 24-0. Semi-final: beat Salford (at Wigan) 50-20.

wins, by swamping Sheffield Eagles last Sunday.

In the modern 17-man game, especially in the heat, the side that best rotates its forwards often prevails. In Paul Medley and Ian Pickavance, the respective teams can introduce the best impact players around.

Lowes, combative and prickly, and Keiron Cunningham, spiky and often inspirational in driving St Helens forward from dummy half, should ensure a fascinating cameo at hooker.

A year ago, it came down to the duel at scrum half between Paul and Goulding. Although Paul became the first player to score a hat-trick of tries at Wembley, he was outperformed by Goulding, who induced a hat-trick of errors in the Bradford defence.

Bradford know where they went wrong. For an omen, they can also look up the result of the 1897 Challenge Cup final: Bailey 10 St Helens 3.

## Hereford desperately seeking survival instinct

Andrew Longmore on the third division showdown this afternoon that will see one of the clubs disappear from the Nationwide League, possibly never to return

Hereford United have troubled the waters little in their 25 years of League football. Ronnie Radford's 1972 giant-killing against Newcastle United apart, they cannot boast any high-rolling tradition, nor count on the sympathy vote. No-one has tried to asset-strip the club nor move them to Birmingham.

Hereford have to beat Brighton today to stay in the Nationwide League. The mess is entirely of their own making and only an assortment of odd-jobbers and callow kids can get them out of it. For the losers, the consequences do not bear contemplation.

"That old saying of Bill Shankly's about football being more important than life or death has been taken out of context in the past," Graham Turner, their personable manager, said. "But I know what he meant now. I've been in management for 18

years, been to a League Cup final with Wolves and went into a quarter-final of the FA Cup knowing I would resign if we lost. But all that pales into insignificance. This is my biggest match in management."

"People say this is a sleepy backwater. So what? Our supporters care just as passionately about their club as followers of Liverpool or Manchester United. I didn't want this match. I wake up in a cold sweat sometimes, but now we've got it, we're looking forward to it. You just have to put to the back of your minds why we're here."

There has been a depressing inevitability about this last-day shoot-out. Despite bringing in a

clutch of new players on free transfers, Turner has been unable to paper over his side's lack of experience. Twelve months ago Hereford won the last game of the season to reach the play-offs, but most of the side had to be moved on to pay the bills.

While Brighton's plight has captured the headlines, Hereford are just another lower-division club bumbling along with the aid of the bank manager. The silver lining is that an all-ticket full house of 8,800 has enabled Robin Fry, the managing director, to guarantee cash flow for a day or two, an unexpected luxury at this stage of the season. Next week, the city council will

consider financial proposals for a new ground. Rejection would be a bigger body-blow than defeat.

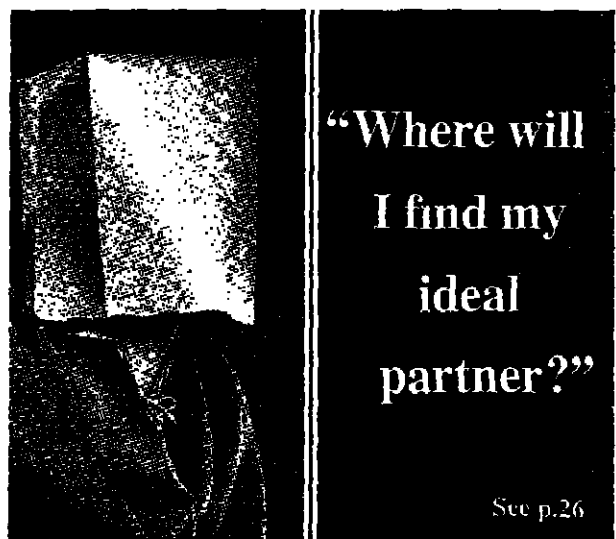
All talk of failure is embargoed anyway. On Monday, Fry assured Turner that the club would keep its full-time staff whatever the result and bounce straight back like Lincoln City, Darlington and Colchester United. "That took about two minutes and it was all over," he said. But as she looks out over the Edgar Street ground, Joan Fennessy, the club secretary, who came to help out 17 years ago and stayed, cannot repel all her fears. "There would be so much sadness if..."

The same mood, a sort of desperate optimism, has permeated the

dressing-room. "There were a few tears after the Orient game because there is a stigma attached to being bottom of the league," Turner said. "It was a very unpleasant weekend, but the time for throwing teacups had long gone. We've just got to keep our nerve now and be positive."

The players are trying, rummaging through their pasts in search of pride. Bradley Sandeman only arrived at Hereford six weeks ago, on a free transfer from Rotherham United. He left Northampton Town just before the receiver was brought in and is still owed three months' wages by Maidstone United from when they went bankrupt.

Staying in the league is becoming personal. "Rotherham went down this season and, if Hereford go too, it won't look too good on my CV, will it?" Sandeman said. "We're all fighting for our careers."



"Where will I find my ideal partner?"

See p.26



## CRICKET

## Derbyshire's level best unavailing

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (Yorkshire won toss): Scores tied, Yorkshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire on a higher score after 25 overs

DERBYSHIRE received the sad news this week of the violent death of Ashley Harvey-Walker, their former batsman, who was gunned down in a Johannesburg bar on Monday. Such acts put defeats on the cricket field, even one as slender as this, into some sort of perspective.

Yorkshire won on a higher scoring rate after the scores finished absolutely level: both sides made 260 for seven but Yorkshire were 13 runs ahead on 116 for two on a 25-over countback. DeFreitas, needing two runs from the final ball,

bowled by Silverwood, could manage only a single and Derbyshire went down to their first defeat of this year in the Benson and Hedges Cup competition.

Derbyshire required 11 runs from the final over, and when Silverwood yorked Krikken with the second ball and the next two brought only a single for Roberts, they needed eight from two balls. What should have been the last ball, a waist-height full toss that umpire Constant deemed to be a no-ball, doubled DeFreitas's two runs and, after a five-minute delay as umpires and players sought clarification on the competition rules, Yorkshire prevailed.

Stemp, Yorkshire's slow left-

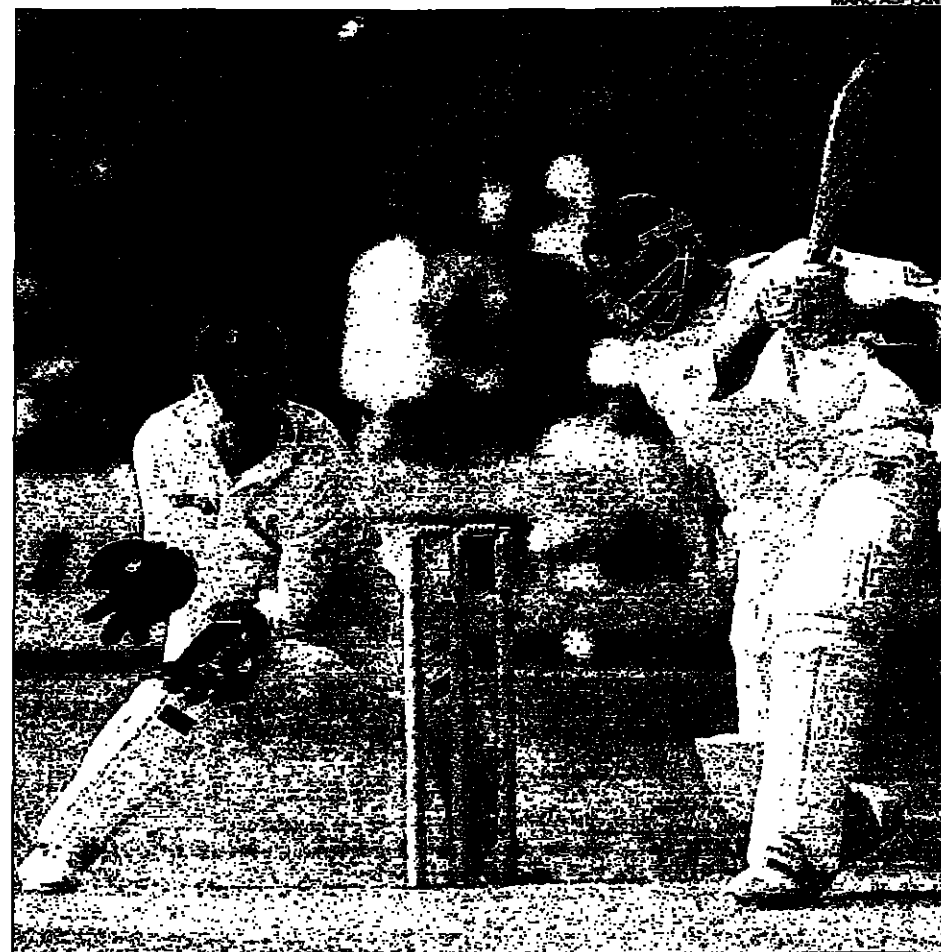
arm, won the gold award even though he did not bowl his full allocation. He took only two wickets but he bowled at a stage of the match when Derbyshire, led by Barnett, were batting freely. Furthermore, the wickets he took belonged to Jones and Barnett, who fell 12 runs short of his second hundred of the week.

Their innings lost momentum after Jones, caught in "three man's land", was bowled. Khan played some spanking strokes through the off side but, when he clipped Silverwood to short mid-wicket and Barnett drove Stemp to long-on, Derbyshire needed 73 from the last ten overs. Krikken and DeFreitas almost took them there, with a spirited stand of 50 in seven overs. It was not quite enough.

Though they might have settled beforehand for a score of 260 for seven, Yorkshire ought to have made a few more after going into the last 20 overs 150 runs to the good. Neither Moxon, Lehmann or Hartley will be proud of the strokes that led to their dismissals, so they ended at least 25 runs light.

Moxon, trying to pull the first ball by Clarke, the leg spinner, was leg-before as it kept a shade low, though the stroke was rather rustic. Lehmann, the 27-year-old Australian, was bowled as he sought to heave Barnett, somewhat inelegantly, through mid-wicket. Hartley is not a specialist batsman, or anything like one, but his attempt to belt Roberts over mid-wicket was still a shocker.

In the morning DeFreitas bowled beautifully, swinging the ball away from the right-handers on a good length. He had only one wicket to show for it, that of Byas, and at the other end Harris was so indulgent in his first two overs that he was immediately withdrawn. How costly those runs were to prove.



McGrath, of Yorkshire, holed out in the deep from this lusty swing at Barnett

## Kent pair quick off the mark

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (Sussex won toss): Kent (2pts) beat Sussex by six wickets

THIS was all too easy. These two counties have had some memorable limited-overs tussles in the past on the St Lawrence ground, but not on this occasion. Hostile opening bowling and another impressive innings by Matthew Walker brought about a victory that, barring mathematical improbabilities, has taken Kent into the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Stronger batting orders than that of Sussex will be uprooted by McCague and Headley this season. Greenfield edged the first ball of the match to slip. Drakes was bowled by a beauty and Lenham was taken at the wicket, dabbling at one that moved away. This was accurate and genuinely quick

bowling and it effectively won the match.

Reduced to 18 for three, Sussex never recovered. Jarvis belted a half-century off 61 balls late in the innings, including successive sixes off McCague, but nobody else was prospered. Taylor, properly acknowledged on his return to the ground on which he made more centuries than either Woolley or Cowdrey, worked the ball around for a while, but that was about it.

The Kent catching was top-class. Ealham, fielding at deep mid-on, the position that his father favoured, flung himself full length to hold one-handed the fiercest of drives by Newell. Moores, prodding indeterminately at Strang, was taken left-handed by Ward at silly point, again at full stretch. The leg spinner took four wickets, but it was Headley who received the gold award.

David Lloyd, the England coach, was at the ground and will have Headley in mind for the forthcoming one-day internationals, and perhaps Ealham and McCague as well. As for the Kent innings, he will have learnt little save that Walker is fast becoming an opener to be reckoned with: this was his fourth successive half-century in one-day cricket.

Short and squat, he enjoyed the way the ball came on to the bat, hitting nine fours in his unbeaten 69 off 113 balls. The ground is so hard that he could forget the old adage about not late-cutting before the end of May. Wells did not make as many runs as he would have liked against his old county, but no matter. Kent had nearly 13 overs to spare. Their next match is against British Universities on this ground on Monday.

## Stewart and Brown go for the jugular

By BARNEY SPENDER

THE OVAL (British Universities won toss): Surrey (2pts) beat British Universities by six wickets

IT WAS not quite the landslide that at one stage looked likely, but Surrey still romped home by a sizeable majority at the Oval yesterday. Needing just 199 to win, Alec Stewart and Alistair Brown had 97 on the board inside ten overs and, although four wickets went down, the target was duly reached two balls after the halfway mark of 25 overs, with six wickets in hand.

Given the nature of the win, it was perhaps appropriate that the outgoing prime minister was present. John Major, a Surrey member, was in relaxed mood as he chatted with the students between innings, doubtless congratulating Will House, of Cambridge University and Kent, on a marvellous innings of 93 that rescued the British Uni-

versities' from humiliation and brought him the gold award.

The Universities' top order was initially tied down by Bicknell and Lewis to such an extent that, by the time the fielding restrictions were relaxed after 15 overs, they were struggling at 22 for two. Joey Benjamin soon made it 30 for four, as he dismissed Singh and Chilton in successive overs, but that was the cue for House, well supported by Ford, to play his part.

A piercing cover-drive off Benjamin set him on his way and he proceeded to play a wonderfully fluent innings. A target of 198, however, was never going to be enough and Stewart, playing but not keeping wicket because of his damaged finger, and Brown went for the jugular from the outset. Brown perished for a rapid 47 but Stewart stayed to the finish, with three sixes and 11 fours in his 87 not out.

Larkins, who has played bowling worldwide, was restricted to 16 in 17 overs before he became one of Stuart Lampitt's four victims as the Minors strove to put runs on the board with the overs draining away.

They were saved from suffocation by Richard Dalton, 31, a factory supervisor from Wellingborough, who scored 75 against Derbyshire five days ago. Slim, bearded, upright, he swings through the ball auda-

ciously and this 69, off 47 balls, included nine fours and four sixes. Whatever difficulties Worcestershire encountered when batting were mostly self-induced. One by one their batsmen got themselves out when comfortably set.

Graeme Hick took 13 balls to score, then hit two dazzling boundaries and seemed serenely untroubled until he hooked half-heartedly at Tony Murphy and was caught at long leg.

Tom Moody hit two sixes in a sensible half-century and seemed determined to see the team home when he took a mow at the deceptively medium-paced Dalton and was bowled.

When Dalton took a return catch, off Vikram Solanki, and bowled Gavin Haynes, his day was certainly made even if the match will not linger long in the memory. All sentiment aside, he deserved his gold award.

## Bold effort by Smith falls short of target

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHAMPTON (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (2pts) beat Hampshire by two runs

A WELCOME return to buccanting form by Robin Smith put Hampshire well on the road to registering their first victory of the season in the Benson and Hedges Cup. His 92 from 104 balls showed him somewhere near his best and the nine fours and two sixes that he smote testified to his sheer weight of stroke. But it was to no avail and, to all intents and purposes, Hampshire have no further interest in the competition.

Smith was supported staunchly by Udall, whose pinch-hitting matched him run for run with the South African during a third-wicket partnership of 80 from 16 overs, after Hampshire had lost two early wickets. Then Keech and Kendall also batted well in supporting roles. But the 42 runs required from the last seven overs by Hampshire's tail-enders, after Smith had been well caught by Ball at deep point, proved just too much.

Hampshire went down with all bats flailing. They came within three runs of victory after a bold attempt to make 30 from the last three overs. This came down to 15 from the last three balls and, although Mike Smith bowled a helpful no-ball to give Gloucestershire kittens and Hampshire hope, the final ball saw Gloucestershire home.

So it was that a magnificent innings of 87 from 80 balls, which entertained the morning crowd and gave the Gloucestershire innings its backbone, proved decisive. Monte Lynch and his opening partner appeared to have wasted the advantages offered by the obligatory close field. But if they did, this had little to do with Lynch.

Trainer made only 26 from 79 balls. His inability to get the ball away was one thing; the fact that he kept the strike away from the belligerent Lynch was even more serious. For Trainer, it was just one of those days when the timing was awry. Certainly 57 from the first 15 overs was not the sort of progress, on a good pitch, that Gloucestershire were contemplating.

Then Lynch took command. His three sixes and seven fours were the result of exquisite timing. He it was who brought Gloucestershire to a total which at one time looked well beyond them.

## Zahid sees the scale of his mission

By RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire (2pts) beat Nottinghamshire by eight wickets

WITH an unfortunate sense of timing, Mohammad Zahid arrived at Trent Bridge yesterday to see his new team-mates suffer the closing moments of this sorry defeat. As he watched Robert Bailey strike Richard Bates for the winning boundary, he must have felt tempted to take the first flight home.

Zahid looked distinctly weary after completing his journey from Colombo via Dubai, immediately after the Test match against Sri Lanka, that encompassed a day and a half. The Pakistani international is in for a long, hard summer, though, as Nottinghamshire's overseas player. The county are in desperate need of a strike bowler.

As it is, he is probably too late to help them into the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup. Defeated twice, Nottinghamshire must overcome Scotland on Monday week, significantly improve their net run-rate and hope that results elsewhere help them.

Northamptonshire are off the mark after their loss to Durham on Wednesday. Ironically, the victory was prompted by their Pakistan bowler, Muhammad Akram. He removed Paul Johnson and Graeme Archer in his first spell, had Mathew Downman dropped and returned to beat Chris Tolley and force an edge from Kevin Evans when Nottinghamshire attempted, forlornly, to finish with a flourish.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
M P Johnson c Brown b Embury 92  
P Johnson c Brown b Embury 54  
G P Archer b Mohammad 25  
R T Robinson b Singh 25  
P R Pollard b Taylor 16  
N A Giddey c Brown b Singh 16  
C M Tolley b Mohammad 21  
W M Noon not out 7  
K P Singh c Brown b Mohammad 49  
R T Bates b Taylor 4  
R A Peck not out 18  
Extras (lb 10, nb 2) 12  
Total (25 overs) 278  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-50, 3-108, 4-148, 5-181, 6-195, 7-199, 8-210, 9-218  
BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 10-0-47-4, Tolley 10-0-40-2, Giddey 10-0-35-2, Embury 10-0-43-1, Singh 10-1-37-2, Bailey 4-0-16-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
D J Clegg b Downman 68  
M B Lloyd c Evans b Tolley 24  
R J Bailey not out 73  
M P Quinn not out 49  
Extras (lb 2, nb 3) 5  
Total (25 overs) 221  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-43, 3-150, 4-151, 5-175, 6-188, 7-188, 8-209, 9-220  
BOWLING: Downman 10-0-45-0, Clegg 10-1-51-0, Tolley 10-0-47-2, Peck 4-0-30-3, Embury 10-0-38-2, Bailey 3-0-25-0  
Gold award: D J Clegg.  
Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

## Dalton shines but Minors suffer in class distinction

By DEREK HODGSON

WORCESTER (Minor Counties won toss): Worcestershire (2pts) beat Minor Counties by four wickets

A STEAMY morning by the River Severn is a test of many captains' acumen: do you bat first on a good track or give your bowlers use of the heavy air? Ian Cockbain, the Minor Counties captain, opted to bat and his

side was 65 for four with 25 overs gone.

In fairness, they would have almost certainly lost no matter what, such is the gap between first-class players and a team of mostly high-grade club cricketers. Even with Wayne Larkins at the top of their order, the Minor Counties allowed Phil Newport to start with a spell of 7-5-7-0, a stranglehold that they could never unlock.

Larkins, who has played bowling worldwide, was restricted to 16 in 17 overs before he became one of Stuart Lampitt's four victims as the Minors strove to put runs on the board with the overs draining away.

They were saved from suffocation by Richard Dalton, 31, a factory supervisor from Wellingborough, who scored 75 against Derbyshire five days ago. Slim, bearded, upright, he swings through the ball auda-

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## Scotland missing the tried and tested

By SIMON WILDE

FORFAR (Durham won toss): Durham (2pts) beat Scotland by eight wickets

CRICKET is not played in many places far north than Lphside Park, and when the weather is as beautiful as it was yesterday, few prefer either. With few clouds in sight, all was right with Scotland's world, except for the fate of the heroes of Kuala Lumpur.

Some might conclude that the gilt is fast falling off Scotland's achievement of qualifying, in Malaysia, for the next World Cup, but they are stricken by

absentees in this Benson and Hedges Cup campaign and have no choice but to throw untested players into the fray.

Durham, who are in no position to be generous, gave them a stern lesson but Jim Love, the Scotland coach, can be pleased with some aspects of play. Smith confirmed his reputation as the side's most cultured batsman with an assured half-century and Thomson, who has had trials with Durham, bowled well with the new ball and was rewarded with the wicket of Lewis as Durham made light of chasing 151.

Smith is one Scotland player who does not need to worry about taking time off

work to play because he is unemployed, having given up his job in the oil industry to prepare for the ICC Trophy by playing club cricket in Australia. Except for the support that he received from Williamson, who helped to add 73, he played a lone hand before sacrificing himself in the push for runs.

Scotland could not break free of the stranglehold imposed by Brown and Killeen. Brown again bowled with precision. Mindful of their run-rate, Durham promoted Foster to hasten the end. He thumped 73 from 57 balls but failed, despite his best endeavours, to reach the Grampians.

## Mushtaq puts ambitious Irish in a spin

By JOHN THICKNESSE

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Ireland by 221 runs

IRELAND'S hopes of repeating their historic feat of beating Middlesex on Tuesday lasted only as long as it took Simon Ecclestone and Richard Harden to lay the foundations of a four-wicket stand of 90 at Taunton yesterday. With Ecclestone making 92, it saw Somerset to 349 for seven, which, falling a 150 from Hansie Cronje, the captain of South Africa, put them well out of danger.

Given a dashing lead by Andrew

Patterson, 21, Ireland looked capable of making a respectable reply until Mushtaq Ahmed came on for the tenth over.

Having arrived from Sri Lanka only yesterday, the Pakistan wrist spinner could be excused for starting with a leg-side wide to the boundary, especially when the next ball, an undetected googly, accounted for Cronje. Helped by playing on the pitch used for Glamorgan's turn, D game on Wednesday, Mushtaq's turn, variety and pace were predictably too much for Ireland. He finished with seven for 24, of which the googly was responsible for four.

In so far as they missed six chances and delivered 16 wides and no-balls, Ireland had themselves to blame for conceding such a daunting score. On an outfield running as fast as it might be in late August after four parched months, however, Somerset would have asked themselves questions had they failed to top 300, especially after an opening stand of 87 at seven runs an over between Rose and Burns.

Within half an hour of Benson bowling Burns, however, Somerset were 126 for three. Cronje's swing dislodging Rose and Lathwell. But Ecclestone's confident driving removed any danger of a full collapse.

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## Derbyshire v Yorkshire

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## Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire

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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 3 1997

## CRICKET

## Dale takes honours for Glamorgan

By PAT GIBSON

CARDIFF (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (pts) beat Middlesex by seven runs

FIRST the Irish, now the Welsh have put Middlesex to the sword on foreign soil this week, and, with a little local difficulty against Essex in between, they are out of the Benson and Hedges Cup, while Glamorgan have an outside chance of reaching the quarter-finals.

Both sides must have been thinking about what might have been yesterday. Up on the players' balcony, Wagar Younis, the Pakistan fast bowler, was watching his new country for the first time and pledging himself to them for the rest of the summer — once he has got into full swing either against Yorkshire, next Wednesday, or Kent the week after.

Out in the middle, Middlesex's new overseas player, Jacques Kallis, of South Africa, was introducing himself as a considerable presence who might have made all the

difference in those games against Ireland and Essex.

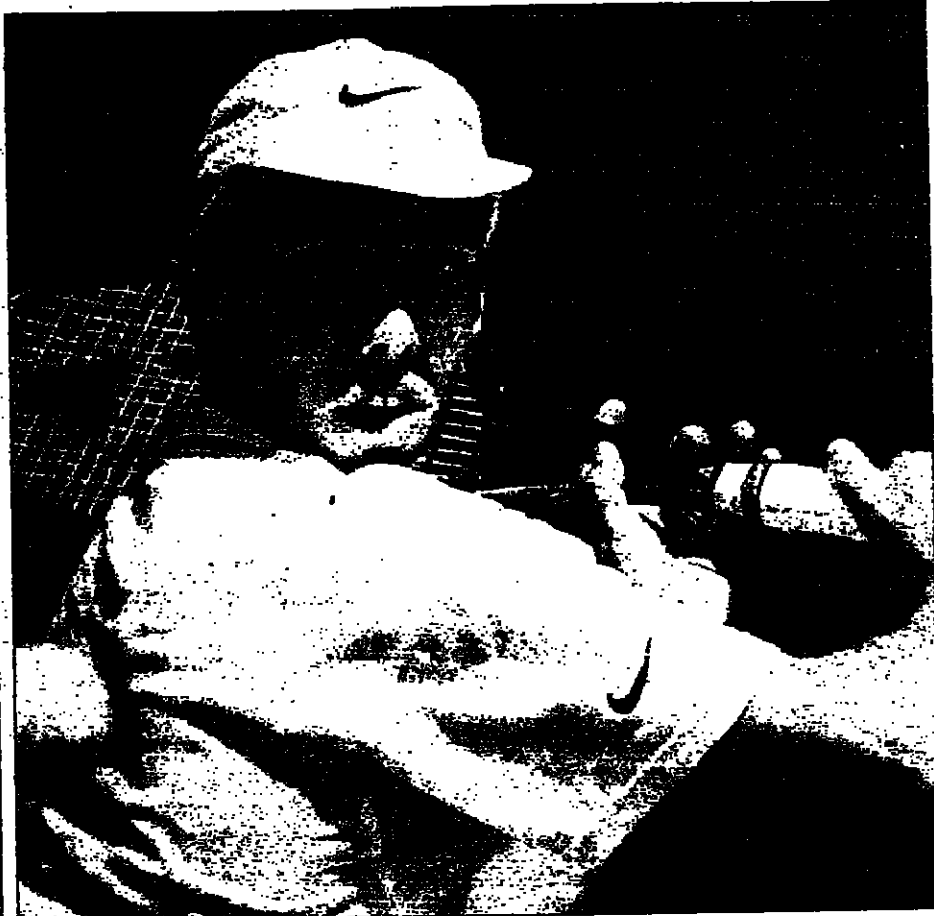
In the event, Adrian Dale, the Glamorgan all-rounder, who has had a frustrating time since he played so well a few years ago that he was selected for an England A tour, upstaged them both. He scored a hundred that formed the bulk of Glamorgan's 252 for seven. Then he took the last three Middlesex wickets in six balls to leave them eight runs short of their target.

Needless to say, he was given the gold award, although it might have been a close-run thing. If Keith Brown, the pugnacious Middlesex wicketkeeper, who had already taken two catches and made two stumpings, had managed to snatch the game from Glamorgan instead of running out of partners in the last over on 42.

Brown's first effort, a plunging catch to his right to dismiss James, gave Fraser an early wicket but, with nothing in the pitch for the seamers, Morris and Dale gave Glamorgan the foundation for a huge score with a third-wicket stand of 112 in 23 overs.

Not for the first time this season, they failed to make the most of it. Morris, having hit 76 off 79 balls with ten fours, was stumped off Tufnell and Maynard and Cottee threw their wickets away. So it was just as well that Croft struck 33 off 24 balls as Dale moved onto his second century of the season. He was eventually stumped off Dutch.

Middlesex looked capable of getting the runs when Kallis, oozing class, and Rampakrish, batting for most of the time with a runner because of a pulled hamstring, were putting on 107 in 22 overs. But then Croft removed them both in the space of three balls. Only Brown gave Middlesex any hope after that.



Michael Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion, announced yesterday that he is to retire because of a recurring shoulder injury.

Stich, 28, aims to play until September, when he hopes to bow out by representing Germany against Mexico in the Davis Cup.

## Hamed expects easy ride

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE fans of Naseem Hamed could be in for a special treat tonight. It all depends on the mood of the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight champion at the Nynex Arena, Manchester.

If he is feeling expansive he might decide to put on a show before dispatching Billy Hardy, of Sunderland, in a late round. If he is feeling mean, the bout could be over in two rounds. The decision could rest on how well Hamed has trained for a man who, on the face of it, appears to have nothing with which to overcome the champion.

Harbed said last week that he has trained harder for this bout than for the one against Don Johnson, from whom he took the IBF title in February. But rumour has it that he has not taken Hardy seriously

and his training has been sloppy.

It is true that Hardy has neither the power, strength nor technique to cause too many problems and the most likely outcome is a stoppage in the third or fourth rounds. But it is hard to ignore the challenger's achievements. After a traumatic defeat in the heat of Laredo, Texas, at the hands of Orlando Canizales six years ago, everyone thought that he was finished. He came back to win the British, Commonwealth and European titles at featherweight.

Hardy has been practising moves to exploit Hamed's weaknesses and predicted: "Naz's greatest asset is playing mind games with everybody. He won't get to me."

If everyone has written off Hardy, few dare predict who will win the bout between Robin Reid, the World Boxing

Council super-middleweight champion from Runcorn, and Henry Wharton, of York. This could be the contest of the year.

If Reid sticks to his game-plan, he could win on points. But the scenario most likely to unfold is that, at some point, Reid, being young and strong, will forget himself and try to punch it out.

Wharton has a good chin, as he showed against Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank, and hits hard enough to stop Reid. A Wharton win in about the seventh round is the most likely outcome.

In a third world title bout, Steve Foster, from South Salford, challenges Ronald Wright, of the United States, for the WBO light-middleweight championship. Foster is a tough and determined challenger, but Wright should outpoint him comfortably.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Grannusch sets an unbeatable target

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN GOTHENBURG

JOHN WHITAKER'S Virtual Village Grannusch, who ably fulfilled his World Cup role on Thursday when he finished fifth in the opening speed leg, underlined his versatility yesterday with a win in the ICA Trophy, one of the non-World Cup events of the five-day meeting here.

Victory for the German-bred gelding, who has won £50,000 during his seven-year international career with Whitaker, came after a nail-biting 12-horse jump-off, in which Whitaker was drawn third. Belying his 18 years, Grannusch produced a lightning-fast clear round that none of the nine that followed could match.

Alvaro Nieto, a member of the Brazil Olympic bronze medal-winning team in Atlanta, came closest on his grey mare, J Carolina, finishing 0.6 seconds outside the winning time. Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the 1992 Olympic champion, went flat out on It's Me but took third place.

The win yesterday came less than 24 hours after Grannusch's brave performance in the opening speed leg of the World Cup — his main target here.

Whitaker, who will ride Welham for the remaining two legs, might have finished higher than fifth had Grannusch not lost his off-fore shoe as he approached the first fence. "It meant we lost our rhythm over the first four or five fences," he said.

Michael Whitaker, John's younger brother, who finished sixteenth, knew he could have gone faster on Ashley but decided not to risk it. "He's only nine and I didn't want to frighten him," Whitaker said. "He's never seen an arena like this before where the spectators are so close."

RESULTS: ICA Trophy: 1. Virtual Village Grannusch (J Whitaker, Ger) 0 in 28.40, 2. J Carolina (A Nieto, Bra) 0 in 29.02, 3. Sorene (T's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 0 in 29.13. Other British results: 24. Virtual Village Sals (J Whitaker, Ger) 0 in 29.13, 25. Virtual Village Niko (J Whitaker, Ger) 0 in 29.13, 26. Virtual Village Niko (J Whitaker, Ger) 0 in 29.13.

## Low blow from down under

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

MOTIVATIONAL section. Michael Atherton for the use of: "It is difficult to understand why England is still so widely regarded as a champagne series... Playing the beleaguered Poms is cheap and unfulfilling... There is little challenge and hollow joy in beating an opponent who has forfeited all right to play in the same division... Seventeen Australian cricketers fortunate enough to spend the northern summer feasting on what should be relatively easy pickings, they had better make every ray of sunshine count." Malcolm Conn, in *The Australian*.

## Worth backing

Greetings to Janet Benney, with her latest idea for raising money to help people with spinal injuries. Her book, *Rude and Ribald Raving Rhymes*, was considered too much for the Injured Jockey Association, so she did it for the Spinal Injuries Association instead. Now she has loaned Inspire Foundation a five-year-old mare called Elite de Bersy. Her syndicate pays the fees, all prize-money goes to Inspire. The beast runs in the 5.55 at Hereford today.

## Watford drama

More on football's everlasting envy of art, or perhaps art's everlasting envy of football. A play about one man's demented love of Watford Football Club will open at the Palace Theatre, Watford, on May 30. It is called *Elton John's Glasses*, and it is by David Farr.

## Unwise words

And now more on rude and ribald literature. Oprah Winfrey finds that Dennis Rodman's autobiography is too much for her. Rodman, basketball player with Chicago Bulls, speaks about such mundane matters as his affair with a transsexual, how he will only "date" white people because black people wouldn't date him

before he was famous and how he plans to change his name to "Orgasm".

Meanwhile, Earl Woods, father of Tiger, claims that "had Tiger become a quarter-miler, he would be kicking Michael Johnson's behind". Johnson, clearly a follower of this column, responded: "Earl Woods says a lot of things that don't bear mentioning. Tiger Woods is a great competitor and a great athlete... I take that back. You don't have to be a great athlete to play golf."

## Kelly's eye

Sex and football is a dangerous combination. Kelly Flinn was the blue-eyed person of the United States Air Force until she was brought low by this lethal confusion. She is 26, a B52 bomber pilot, pin-up girl of the 23rd Bombardiers and a woman intended for still higher things. But all her life she has loved football, as in soccer. And she fell for a married coach named Mark Zigo. He told her he was planning to divorce his wife, but did not mention this to his wife, who then found out about the affair. Zigo first attempted suicide and then went public about the most intimate details of the whole business. Now Kelly is to be court-martialled, because she has "sullied aeronautics".

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# THE MAKING OF A PRIME MINISTER

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-  **PHILLIP OPPENHEIM** 'I feel like a kamikazi pilot going to his inescapable doom...' A Conservative MP's diary of defeat
-  'The blue gossip and hot opinion flow without let or hindrance...' **A GILL** with Alan Clark in Chelsea, the last Tory redoubt

PLUS: The latest news and analysis as the new government takes shape



Manchester United manager on brink of securing fourth Premiership title in five seasons

# Ferguson faces late appointment with destiny



Ferguson: cautious

By DAVID MADDOCK

FOOTBALL'S rapid progression from sport to a branch of the entertainment industry was never better illustrated than today, when the penultimate weekend of the FA Carling Premiership is spread across 84 hours to accommodate television's insatiable appetite for the game.

It will not matter to Manchester United, who will have one hand on the trophy by lunchtime if they defeat Leicester City at Filbert Street (kick-off 11.15), and both in (kick-off 8pm) should Liverpool then lose at home to Tottenham Hotspur tonight.

Alex Ferguson's fourth title in five seasons has seemed inevitable since the end of January, when his team regained the lead during a run of 16 unbeaten league matches that made a nonsense of talk of crises in the autumn. The championship of Europe remains beyond them for now, but in the domestic game, United still have no peers.

True to form, though, Fer-

guson was taking nothing for granted yesterday. "It is a matter of common sense now and not getting carried away with what we have achieved so far," he said.

"We have been down this road so many times before and we know how difficult it is to win the championship. We must not let ourselves be distracted by the fact that people are saying we have already won the title. We still have to go on and win it and we are aware that we can lose it in a second. But we have three games left at home after this and if we get a good result at Leicester then it strengthens our position even more."

The prospect of United subsequently securing the title in front of their home crowd — a climax denied them since 1965 — was also not lost on Ferguson. "I don't care how we win it, although it would be very exciting to clinch it at Old Trafford," he said. "What matters is that we win it and I am sure that the fans will say the same."

Liverpool are seemingly

consigned to contesting second place in the Premiership — and a berth in the Champions' League next season — with Arsenal and Newcastle United, who meet at Highbury this afternoon, but at Anfield yesterday thoughts had clearly turned away from Europe towards the search for a new leader on the pitch. John Barnes, the captain, will step aside at the end of the season and Roy Evans has been distracted by the need to find suitable replacements.

He has an impressive list of candidates. Liverpool have

spoken already to Paul Ince, of Internazionale, and the manager is hoping to construct a solid backbone by also bringing Jari Litmanen, the impressive Ajax and Finland international forward, and Sol Campbell, Tottenham's England defender, to the club.

There has even been some campaigning on Campbell's behalf by the England trio at Liverpool. Jamie Redknapp, a friend of his, wrote in his column in a local newspaper yesterday that the centre half possessed the qualities that his side require if they are ever to lift the championship.

However, it seems that even the big issues at the top of the Premiership have now largely lost the interest of the public given United's dominance, and it is to the bottom end of the table that the country must look for drama this afternoon. With a week left of the campaign, any three from eight clubs could still be relegated and it is anyone's guess to the identities of the doomed trio.

Middlesbrough have been weighed down by the expectation placed on their exotic imports and their efforts in recent weeks have clearly been affected by a congested fixture list, brought about by their exploits in both domestic cup competitions. It has turned into Bryan Robson's big theme in his campaign against the FA Premier League, but yesterday the manager changed tack slightly as he continued his criticism.

Robson has three injured goalkeepers. Mark Schwarzer, the first choice, has a stress fracture, and Gary Walsh underwent a cartilage

operation, while Ben Cole, the young understudy, has a broken bone in his hand. It leaves Ben Roberts as the only contender to face Aston Villa today and even he is suffering from an injury.

"The Premier League have made the rule and we have to accept it but I would think that two broken bones and a cartilage op are reasonable grounds for special dispensation," Robson said.

"The players know what is at stake and they must go out and respond — no one wants to have relegation on their career record."

Middlesbrough are among the favourites to be relegated, as are Sunderland, who enter the final competitive game at their home stadium never more in need of help from the famous Roker Park roar. Peter Reid's side must beat Everton if they are to maintain any chance of escaping the drop and it will undoubtedly be an emotional afternoon both there and at the City Ground, where Nottingham Forest's fate is likely to be sealed.



Roberts: playing on

## REMAINING MATCHES

Top of table	MANCHESTER UNITED: Today: v Leicester (a). May 8: v Middlesbrough (h). May 11: v Newcastle (h). May 11: v West Ham (a).	(h) May 7: v Sheffield Wednesday (h). May 11: v Blackburn (a).
ARSENAL: Today: v Newcastle (h). May 11: v Derby (a).	SOUTHAMPTON: Today: v Blackburn (h). May 11: v Aston Villa (a).	WEST HAM: Today: v Sheffield Wednesday (h). May 8: v Newcastle (h). May 11: v Manchester United (a).
LIVERPOOL: Today: v Tottenham (h). May 8: v Wimbledon (a). May 11: v Sheffield Wednesday (a).	COVENTRY: Today: v Derby (h). May 11: v Tottenham (a).	NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Today: v Wimbledon (h). May 11: v Newcastle (a).
NEWCASTLE: Today: v Arsenal (a). May 8: v West Ham (a). May 8: v Manchester United (a). May 11: v Nottingham Forest (h).	SUNDERLAND: Today: v Everton (h). May 11: v Wimbledon (a).	
Bottom of table	LEICESTER: Today: v Manchester United	

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**ARSENAL**  
An absolutely vital game for Arsenal if they aspire to second place in the Premiership, and thus squeeze their way into the European Champions' League next season. Lack of real drive down the wings and genuine invention in midfield may still hamper Arsenal even against a defence as doubtful as Newcastle's. The excellent form of Dennis Bergkamp, who scored twice for Holland against San Marino in a 6-0 win in midweek, must give them hope of victory. **BG**

**ASTON VILLA**  
Steve Staunton and Andy Townsend, the Villa players, spent little time contemplating Ireland's valiant display in the World Cup qualifying defeat against Romania in Bucharest on Wednesday. They were whisked away from the Steaua Stadium, with Denis Irwin and Roy Keane, the Manchester United pair, and flown back to England the same evening by chartered jet. Villa and United wanted an early return for their prize assets and were happy to share the bill, estimated at £25,000. **RK**

**BLACKBURN ROVERS**  
Paul Ince has managed to upset plenty of people this week, not least the good folk of Blackburn, who were most indignant when he described them as a second-rate club. Rovers had briefly emerged as favourites to sign the England midfielder player when he returns this summer from Internazionale. Rovers will cast far and wide this summer in search of new players and Roy Hodgson, the incoming manager, has his eye on at least two players in the Italian league. **DM**

**CHELSEA**  
It seems very unlikely that Chelsea will risk Gianfranco Zola, who came off in Naples six minutes into the second half of Italy's match against Poland, troubled again by the hamstring he pulled playing against Wimbledon. In a match that does not really matter, Chelsea will presumably give Vialli another run alongside Mark Hughes. The word is that Rangers now want to give Vialli, 32, a princely contract, and both he and Chelsea would be well advised to grab the money and run. **BG**

**COVENTRY CITY**  
Steve Ograhovic, the Coventry goalkeeper, has been in the spotlight for the last few days, and not only to escape the pressure of the club's perennial relegation scrap. Ograhovic is a keen and talented cricketer — he once bowled Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, off a no-ball while playing for Shropshire — and wants to join the team attack of Coventry and North Warwick as quickly as possible. "I hope to get in a few games before returning for pre-season training in July," he said. **RK**

**DERBY COUNTY**  
Jim Smith, the manager, has dismissed reports that Dean Sturridge, the leading goalscorer, will leave during the summer. Indeed, the next transfer activity is likely to fall on the expenditure side of the ledger, with Jonathan Hunt, of Birmingham City, impressing in a recent trial. Poom may return in goal against Coventry this afternoon despite dislocating a finger playing for Estonia three days ago, but Wanhope and Solis are on World Cup duty for Costa Rica in El Salvador. **RH**

**EVERTON**  
There will be some heavy hearts in the Everton camp if they inflict a defeat on Sunderland that would seriously endanger the North East club's hopes of Premiership survival. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is fondly remembered for his playing feats at Goodison and will himself be keeping half an eye on the progress of the campaign to persuade Bobby Robson to swap Barcelona for Merseyside. Short is still absent with a neck injury and Unsworth is suspended.

**LEEDS UNITED**  
After signing Molenaar from France, George Graham, the manager, may look north, to Scandinavia, when he continues to rebuild over the summer. Who would have thought, two years ago, that Tony Yeboah would depart in that process? The Ghana international will leave Elland Road, possibly for Fenerbahce in Turkey. Today, Graham's priority is to thwart foreign players when Leeds visit Chelsea. Beeny deputises for Martyn in goal. **RH**

**LEICESTER CITY**  
Leicester have slipped belatedly into the form many anticipated during the pre-season, taking three points from six matches sandwiching their Coca-Cola Cup triumph. That is relegation standard and Martin O'Neill, the manager, believes his side still require two points to ensure safety. Although some of Leicester's most energetic performances have been reserved for more fancied opponents, they must be at their most enthusiastic to deny Manchester United at Filbert Street this morning. **RH**

**LIVERPOOL**  
There is still the small matter of a place in the Champions' League to contest, but, not unnaturally, Liverpool seem more intent on looking towards the future after conceding defeat to Manchester United in the title race. Much interest today centres around John Barnes and his possible inclusion against Tottenham. Barnes was dropped from the 16 named to face Paris Saint-Germain, and if he is absent again today then it would be safe to say he will play no part next season. **DM**

**MANCHESTER UNITED**  
With the FA Carling Premiership yet again within his grasp, one would have expected Alex Ferguson, the manager, to have had more than Frosties on his mind yesterday. But the subject of breakfast was virtually his only topic of conversation as he and his team prepared for an early morning kick-off at Leicester today. "We have to do it right, so it will be cereal and eggs, beans and toast and not the usual chicken and pasta," he said, still cautious about United's title hopes. **DM**

**MIDDLESBROUGH**  
Although only half fit, Ben Roberts will definitely be patched up to play in goal against Aston Villa at the Riverside today. If Bryan Robson's men lose, they seem almost certain to be relegated and although they had FA Cup Final suits fitted on Thursday, all Robson would say was: "I can only think about Villa. We've got to get three points." Emerson and Robbie Mustoe will want to avoid bookings that would force them to miss the final through suspension.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED**  
Two weeks ago, no one would have given a bean for Newcastle's chances of making the Champions' League. Now they have a real opportunity, especially since Tony Adams will be missing from the Arsenal line-up today. Kenny Dalglish, the manager, enjoys a first at Newcastle — a full squad to choose from — with long-term absentees Howey and Albert returning. Dalglish has performed a quiet revolution since taking over from Kevin Keegan, and Newcastle may yet take second place. **DM**

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST**  
Forest must beat Wimbledon this afternoon to avoid relegation. Even then, they must also beat Newcastle at St James' Park a week later. Forest have been elsewhere in the relegation scrap, but they hope there will be a miracle on the realisation that they are going to be relegated. "Dave Bassett, the general manager, admitted the club was in a bit of a mess, but he said they were likely to step down in a few weeks rather than later."

**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
A year ago, Wednesday visited West Ham needing a point to ensure their Premiership survival. This time around, the points are equally necessary, but for a far more enjoyable reason. Wednesday can still sense the prospect of a place in Europe next season, although they need to win their remaining two matches and Upton Park is not the most inviting place to visit. As always, David Pleat, the manager, has selection problems, with worries about Hirst, Hyde and Walker. **DM**

**SUNDERLAND**  
The last league match at Roker Park will, like so many fixtures at this famous old ground, be a white-knuckle affair. Sunderland have to beat Everton today to retain a realistic chance of avoiding relegation. Anything less and they will begin life at their new 42,000 capacity stadium as Nationwide League members. Niall Quinn seems certain to lead the attack. Chris Waddle has intimated he will leave Sunderland in the summer but his peerless dead ball ability could prove decisive today.

**WEST HAM UNITED**  
Three matches to go, two victories needed to be safe, and the pressure is beginning to get to West Ham. "You don't want to have to go to places like Barnsley," Julian Dicks, their injured captain, said yesterday as he considered the prospect of relegation. Er, actually, Julian, that would not be such a bad idea, would it? With their last two games bringing them up against the United forces of Newcastle and Manchester, victory today, against Sheffield Wednesday, is imperative for Dicks and Co. **KP**

**WIMBLEDON**  
As widely predicted after their three August defeats, Wimbledon are heavily involved in the fight to avoid relegation; but only because of the precarious position of their opponents next weekend, Sunderland, and, today, Nottingham Forest. The possibility that Vinnie Jones, the captain, will be a Forest player next season adds spice to the encounter. Robbie Earle could return to the midfield after injury as Wimbledon attempt to finish the season more positively than they began it. **NS**

## HOW THEY STAND

	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Manchester United	34	69	+30
2 Arsenal	36	65	+29
3 Liverpool	35	64	+25
4 Newcastle	34	60	+27
5 Aston Villa	36	59	+13
6 Sheffield Wednesday	36	56	+14
7 Chelsea	36	55	+2
8 Wimbledon	35	49	+1
9 Tottenham	36	46	-5
10 Leeds	36	44	-10
11 Derby	36	43	-12
12 Everton	36	42	-2
13 Blackburn	35	41	+3
14 Leicester	35	40	-11
15 Southampton	36	38	-7
16 West Ham	35	38	-11
17 Coventry	36	38	-18
18 Sunderland	36	37	-20
19 Middlesbrough	34	35	-10
20 Nottingham Forest	36	33	-22

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Southampton's successful March has been reflected in player and manager of the month awards for Michael Evans, the £400,000 signing from Plymouth Argyle, and Graeme Souness. Another win today should keep them up. But which Southampton will face Blackburn this afternoon — the gritty outfit that battled to victories over relegation rivals Nottingham Forest, West Ham and Sunderland, or the one that surrendered a two-goal lead to Coventry? **NS**

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR**  
With Ian Walker, the Tottenham goalkeeper, struggling with shoulder and Achilles injuries that could necessitate close-season surgery, Espen Baardsen stands by to make his debut today. After 40 non-playing appearances on the substitutes' bench, what better place to be introduced than against Liverpool at Anfield. Baardsen may also need an operation during the summer, while Colin Calderwood and Stuart Nethercott are due to go under the knife, too. **RK**



## RUGBY UNION

## Leicester seek to save season

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TWO matches in eight days against the same opponents will decide whether Leicester's season amounts to a success or a failure. That may be too harsh a judgment, given the changes that have occurred in the club's playing style and the consequent contribution they will make to senior touring parties this summer, but should they fail in both, the sense of anticlimax will be almost tangible.

European and domestic league honours have already slipped from their grasp. Should they lose to Sale at Heywood Road today, then a place among Europe's elite next season will have gone too and should they lose to Sale at Twickenham in the Pilkington Cup final next Saturday, another season will have passed — like the last one — with no obvious reward for so much endeavour.

Losing is a habit that Leicester have largely avoided this season, with the glaring exception of the Heineken Cup final against Brive in January, until the collapse of the meek defence in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship led to defeat in four of their past five league games. It is not a habit that a club with no private investor can afford, hence the return of their six British Isles players today.

Eric Miller and Will Greenwood must undergo late fitness checks, but, even with their presence, it will be hard to pick up the threads of the fluid and effective game that they last offered a month ago, against Wasps, the new league champions, particularly when Sale are the opposition. They have shrugged off the 80-point defeat by Bath as inconsequential, since they fielded an entire second XV, and all their injured players return, with the exception of John Fowler in the second row. Sale's own hopes of qualification for the Heineken Cup rest on this game too, should they win they will take the fourth and last qualifying

place behind Wasps, Bath and Harlequins.

Paul Grayson ends an eight-week absence when he plays for Northampton against Gloucester and Bristol welcome back two Lions for the game with relegated West Hartlepool tomorrow. Simon Shaw and Mark Regan, who has not played since the England meeting with Wales in March, return for a game that is primarily a warm-up for the first leg of the play-off against Bedford next Wednesday, upon which hangs Bristol's first-division future.

Wasps go to Harlequins for their final league game with Gareth Rees at stand-off half instead of the injured Alex King, conscious that the Quins would lose nothing better than a double over the champions. Rees will also occupy No 10 on May 24, against a World XV in the Sanyo Cup match at Twickenham. Wasps intend to fly him back from Hong Kong, where he is due to play for Canada in the Pacific Rim tournament that same week.

They are intent on giving a London crowd the opportunity to appreciate the league trophy and display their young talent, even though they will have lost Lawrence Dallaglio to the British Lions and six others to tours by England (to Argentina) and Ireland (to New Zealand). To that end, they intend to invite Mike Hall and Leigh Davies, the Cardiff midfield pair, to guest against the likes of Philippe Sella and David Campese in a match that will add £50,000 to their coffers.

The money is not to be sniffed at. Wasps get nothing for winning the league, beyond the sponsor's participation fee of £17,000 and an enhanced interest through the gate and in the bar. There is more money on offer at the Ghreghy Henley seven-tenths tomorrow, when the winners — most likely the Fiji national team, led by Waisale Serevi — stand to take away £25,000.



Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, in relaxed mood at Wembley yesterday before the Challenge Cup final against Bradford today. Photograph: Tim Dickinson

## Brand deserves fanfare

FROM MEL WEBB IN BRESCIA

GORDON J. BRAND has always been one of the more intriguing characters on the PGA European Tour. There cannot, after all, be too many men who have finished second in the Open Championship and also played the corner in the Hammond Sauce Works Band. But the accomplishments of Brand, who ended the second round of the Italian Open here sharing second place, a shot off the lead, do not end there.

The Yorkshireman, 41, who had a 70 to go into the weekend level with Patrick Spink and Brian Davis on 138, six under par, a stroke behind Eduardo Romero, had his moment of glory in the Open when he was second to Greg Norman at Turnberry and also played in the 1983 Ryder Cup. In the Eighties he also combined professional golf with farming on the Yorkshire moors above Ilkley. On that farm he had six cows, two horses and two dozen chickens, plus a flock of pigeons living in the barn and 20 wild cats that eventually

had to be shipped to a Mickey Finn and shipped out to the nearest cat's home.

Although the farm would never have made him rich, Brand was happy enough until the night his chicken stock was diluted by a lightning pre-emptive strike by a ravenous dog that sneaked in under the cover of darkness and ate 12 of them in one sitting. It was at that point that Brand realised that the birds would always have to come before the eggs.

His rural idyll over, Brand has had to rely solely on his golf for his living in more recent years and it has not been easy for him. He always had one of the more idiosyncratic swings, a hesitation at the top of the backswing making him look if he had been caught in freeze-frame. In the end his method betrayed him and after finishing 18th and 19th in the money-list in the past two years, he was forced to rebuild it completely with Peter Tupper, his coach, before scrapping for his playing rights

against the bright young things at the tour qualifying school last autumn. The pause has gone and what is left, although still not a thing of beauty, is at the very least serviceable. He had only two birdies yesterday, but there were no bogeys and he even survived a referee's warning about his pace of play with swing intact.

He does not know if that swing will hold up over the weekend — he is about to tread into territory that he has not explored for years. What he does know, however, is that what he has been doing for the last two days beats having half your chickens slaughtered by a canine raider.

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: E. Romero (4th) 68, 69; P. Spink (5th) 68, 70; G. Brand (6th) 70, 70; B. Davis (7th) 70, 70; J. M. O'Sullivan (8th) 69, 71; P. O'Connell (9th) 70, 70; S. Latta (10th) 72, 67; R. J. O'Connell (11th) 72, 67; M. J. O'Connell (12th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (13th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (14th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (15th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (16th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (17th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (18th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (19th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (20th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (21st) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (22nd) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (23rd) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (24th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (25th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (26th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (27th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (28th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (29th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (30th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (31st) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (32nd) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (33rd) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (34th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (35th) 72, 67; J. O'Connell (36th) 72, 67; J. 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## NEWSPAPER

**THUNDER**  
 2.00 Swiss Law  
 2.30 Future Perfect  
 3.05 Supercal  
 The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 PAS DE REPONSE.  
 Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 INTIKHAB (nap).  
 3.45 Sleepytime.

## GUIDE TO OUR RACE

100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE  
 TOTIPAC MEETING

## 2.00 ST RACEPAGER CONDITIONS STAKES

(Y-O: 55,041; 7) (6 runners)  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## FORM FOCUS

INTIKHAB 2nd to Starborough in conditions race at Thackley (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## 2.30 MAIL ON SUNDAY MAIL

(Handicap: 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## FORM FOCUS

MAIL ON SUNDAY MAIL 2nd to Starborough in conditions race at Thackley (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## 3.05 L DAVISON PRETTY POLLY STAKES

(Listed: 3-Y-O: £12,428; 2m) (10 runners)  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## FORM FOCUS

BOULDER 1st to Starborough in conditions race at Thackley (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## 3.45 PERTINENTS 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O: £104,730; 1m) (15 runners)  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## FORM FOCUS

BOULDER 1st to Starborough in conditions race at Thackley (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## 4.20 INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS / CHURNEY RESTAURANT RATED HANDICAP

(£7,157; 1m 40) (14 runners)  
 100 (100) 00432: GOOD TIMES 74 (CJ/F/6.5) (m) D Robinson 8 Hls 8-10-0. 5 West (C) 80  
 course and distance riding (F) - London.

## FORM FOCUS

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verdict over Moonlight Paradise, whom she dismissed over six furlongs in October. Some believe Moonlight Paradise, a rugged representative of Godolphin, might avenge that defeat over this longer trip. But any doubts about Pas De Reponse's ability to stay a mile are minimal. She is by the classic source, Danzig, from a female line replete with high-class performers at this distance. As long as Freddie Head conserves her speed, she can strike in the closing stages.

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Newbury contest looks well short of classic form. Sleepytime must also avenge another luckless defeat by Reams Of Verse and Khassan at Ascot in September. But Khassan, with the benefit of a winter in Dubai, can emerge best from this group. Like Khassan, Sarayir has the Dubai advantage, but this half-sister to Nashwan might be more comfortable over a distance of ground. Yashmak is equally well related but her best form has been gained on an easy surface.

Those responsible for dropping Ocean Ridge's odds are taking liberties with her staminal. Elegant Warning and Dazzle are also suspect in this department but there are

possibilities about Rebecca Sharp. This one looked loaded with talent when annexing a maiden here two weeks ago. Perhaps the best each-way prospect is Reunion, comfortably best in the Nell Gwynn Stakes here last month. Well forward on that occasion, she sent the issue swiftly. Pas De Reponse, however, is the class act: she can join Ma Biche, Ravinella and Hatof on Mme Head's 1,000 Guineas roll of honour.

The opening BT Race Page Conditions Stakes (2.00) is best left to Swiss Law. He failed to figure in a big field for the Taneralls Houghton Sales Stakes but shaped well when chasing home Indiscreet on his debut. Since

acquired by Godolphin, Swiss Law has the scope to make great improvement. A big turnout in the Mail On Sunday Mile Handicap (2.30) makes this a tricky heat. It usually pays to side with a progressive performer in these events and Nawasib fits the bill. She faced a talented opponent when beaten by Meshed on her last start and looks reasonably treated.

In a substantial renewal of the R L Davison Pretty Polly Stakes (3.05), a chance is taken with Affire, who showed hints of ability last term. A headstrong sort, she should be straighter for her outing the Fred Darling Stakes two weeks ago.

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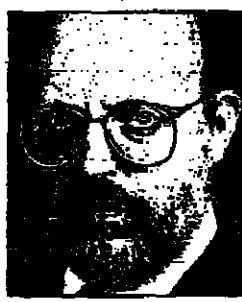


# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 3 1997

Shares close at a record despite cautious welcome for Labour

## Election result lifts market

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE stock market greeted the election result by climbing to a new high yesterday. Expectations of an early rise in interest rates also helped sterling, which edged up against the mark.

Business leaders gave the new Government a cautious welcome, in spite of warnings on Labour's policies on tax and employment. But there was also evidence that business could face early pressure to implement the new Government's policies on trade union recognition. Biffu, the banking union, is demanding that Mid-

land Bank restore its negotiating rights on behalf of 9,000 junior and middle managers.

The FT-SE 100 recovered from an early fall of 21 points to close up 10.6 at 4,455.6, setting a new record for the second consecutive day.

With any fears of a hung Parliament decisively dispelled, dealers were concentrating on Wall Street, where softer than expected employment data prompted another rise in the Dow Jones index. By mid-afternoon the Dow was up 26.49 at 7,002.97.

The pound suffered some jitters in early trading but was helped to regain lost ground by the strong dollar. Sterling's

trade weighted index closed unchanged at 99.7, having at one stage fallen more than one point to 98.5. Against the dollar the pound closed down about half a cent at \$1.6180, while it finished at DM2.7964, compared with DM2.7912 yesterday.

Dealers expect greater volatility in the markets in coming weeks with Gordon Brown expected to raise interest rates and possibly taxes. The market is predicting that Mr Brown will make a quarter point rate rise after the scheduled monthly meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England on Wednesday. But the new Chancellor is likely to be

tormented between trying to establish instant anti-inflation credibility — perhaps with even a half point rise — and arguing that he has not had time to weigh up all the options.

There is also likely to be increasing nervousness over the contents of Labour's mini-Budget — likely to be announced on July 1. Utility share prices fell yesterday on suspicions that Labour will raise more than forecast from the windfall tax. The City fears that Mr Brown may also target the corporate and pension sectors.

Ann Robinson, Director General of the National Association of Pension Funds,

warned the new Government that tampering with the fiscal regime for pension savings. "Will be very damaging to all its members and the millions of people who benefit from their schemes".

Business leaders also expressed concern over Labour's plans for the minimum wage. Scottish & Newcastle, the leading brewer, warned against a quick imposition of a uniform wage rate. It said: "Labour has committed to consulting widely on the minimum wage and it is essential that such consultation takes place."

Adair Turner, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was

looking forward to "working with Labour to create the policies that will help British business to flourish".

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "The Labour Party has reasonably reassured us that they are in the business of working with business."

Leaders of the British Chambers of Commerce also hailed Labour's victory, but coupled it with a six-point challenge to the new Government, including an early decision on joining a single currency and using taxes to stave off inflation.

Lack of know-how, page 34  
Markets/Tempsus, page 36

## Pearson may fight for £100m lost at Penguin

By ERIC REGULY

PEARSON is preparing legal moves in America to recover the £100 million lost caused by improper accounting in its Penguin books subsidiary.

Pearson said at its annual meeting yesterday that it is considering claims "for recovery against one or more third parties". It would not provide details, but potential targets are thought to include Arthur Andersen, former auditor of Penguin's US business, and the Penguin accounts clerk in New Jersey who extended unauthorised discounts to book retailers from 1991 to 1996, and is now believed to have personally benefited from this.

Retailers that benefited from the discounts could also face legal action.

The unauthorised discounts of 5 to 10 per cent were offered to retailers in exchange for prompt payment. A £100 million charge against 1996 profits covers the value of the discounts, the cost of the investigation and the rebates

that may be demanded by any retailer not offered discounts. The American Booksellers Association is already seeking compensation from Penguin.

Pearson said that the investigation by Price Waterhouse, the accounting firm, into unauthorised discounts is complete. The company said that it now believes that the accounts clerk, a middle-aged woman who earned about \$45,000 a year, was motivated by "personal gain". In the past, it attributed her behaviour to an overzealous approach.

Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, said: "We are still investigating whether other people knew about it in her office."

The Penguin clerk's immediate supervisor has been suspended. Pearson would not say whether he is suspected of having gained personally.

Lord Blakenham, Pearson's chairman, who was succeeded yesterday by Dennis Stevenson, the GPA chairman and a non-executive Pearson director since 1986, said that the inquiry found that none of Penguin's senior managers was aware of the improper accounting. Peter Mayer was chief executive of Penguin at the time.

In a separate development, John Mackinson, Pearson's finance director, said that defusing the "millennium bug" that stops computers recognising the year 2000 could cost it £30 million to £50 million.



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Dennis Stevenson with Marjorie Scardino

## Globe-trotting outsider to be Saatchi chief

By ERIC REGULY

CORDIANT, the £800 million a year advertising group, yesterday appointed a man with little advertising experience to run the merged Saatchi & Saatchi agency.

Kevin Roberts, 47, is to become chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide later this month, replacing Ed Wax. Mr Wax, 60, a Saatchi & Saatchi veteran, will remain chairman until the end of this year and will become chairman emeritus in 1998.

Cordiant last month announced a full merger that will see Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates Worldwide, its two main agencies, floated separately on the London and New York stock exchanges. Zenith, the media buying arm of Cordiant, is to be owned equally by the two companies after the merger.

The Cordiant name will disappear upon merger and Bob Seelert, Cordiant's chief executive, will become chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi PLC, the listed company that will own Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, the operating subsidiary. Mr Roberts will report directly to Mr Seelert.

A Cordiant spokesman said that Mr Roberts has agreed a salary that will not exceed Mr Wax's salary of about £300,000 a year. Mr Roberts's bonus and option package, however, could add considerably to his income. It will not be disclosed until the listing details are published in September.

Mr Roberts, who was born in Lancaster, spent the early years of his career working for Mary Quant, developing and marketing the fashion house's cosmetics. In the 1970s, he had

stints with Gillette and Procter & Gamble, for which his brand responsibilities included Pampers, Tide and Ariel.

In the early 1980s, he joined Pepsi and worked in various regions, including the Middle East and Canada, until 1989, when he joined Lion Nathan, a New Zealand brewery.

Mr Roberts, a director of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, is married with three children, and has homes in Auckland, New York and London. He is proprietor of Gault's restaurant in Auckland, voted New Zealand's best restaurant earlier this year.

Mr Seelert said: "Kevin's diverse career has exposed him to the key disciplines essential to our business."

## BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4455.6 (+10.6)
Yield	3.63%
FTSE All share	2142.25 (+3.56)
Nikkei	19514.75 (+238.42)
Dow Jones	7002.97 (+26.49)
S&P Composite	803.31 (+4.79)

3-mth Interbank	6.1%	(5.7%)
Life long gilt	11.1%	(11.0%)
Future (Jun)		

New York	1.6223	(1.6240)
London	1.5182	(1.5240)
DM	2.7970	(2.7909)
FF	9.4302	(9.4274)
SFR	2.3824	(2.3849)
Yen	205.07	(205.09)
2 Index	99.7	(99.7)

London	1.7582	(1.7529)
DM	1.5220	(1.5088)
FF	1.4685	(1.4700)
SFR	128.49	(128.28)
Yen	106.0	(105.9)
2 Index		

Tokyo close Yen 128.45	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.10 (\$18.45)
London close	\$940.20 (\$940.20)
* denotes midday trading price	

## Northern Rock undercuts rivals

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Northern Rock building society has defied the trend to dearer home loans with the launch of a 6.09 per cent variable rate mortgage, undercutting the Halifax by 1.25 per cent.

The Northern Rock loan will be offered through a new telephone-based division, of the society, which plans to become a bank in October. The rate also comfortably undercuts the rate offered by the direct arm of the Bradford & Bingley. This society, which is committed to staying mutual, offers a rate of 6.24 per cent.

Adam Applethorn, Northern Rock's executive director, said that it could offer the low rate because it intended to take on only low-risk business. The new mortgage, Promise, will be available only to those who can put up a 15 per cent

deposit. Monthly repayments on a £50,000, 6.09 per cent interest-only loan are £230. Northern Rock estimates that a borrower taking out this mortgage would save £220 a year in comparison with the average rate offered by other direct lenders, such as Direct Line and First Direct. Northern Rock's existing borrowers will not be able to take advantage of the new offer.

The Halifax and the Bradford & Bingley claimed that the rate offered by the Northern Rock was a short-term marketing ploy to take on new business. However, Gary Marsh, Halifax assistant general manager, said: "We will be keeping an eye on the situation to see if Northern Rock makes a big impact."

Weekend Money, page 64

## Lanica sets date for relisting

By FRASER NELSON

LANICA, the investment trust run by Andrew Regan, will attempt to have its shares relisted this month by detailing its liability for claims against it by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The company, whose sister company Galileo aborted a £1.2 billion bid for the CWS last week, will also publish its 1996 results and hopes to clear all remaining obstacles to its relisting within four weeks.

In a statement yesterday, Lanica promised that the shares would trade again as soon as its position is made clear. It said: "A statement of claim is required to be served by the CWS shortly. Lanica will seek legal advice as to the extent of its liability, if any."

The CWS has said it is looking for millions in damages from Mr Regan and

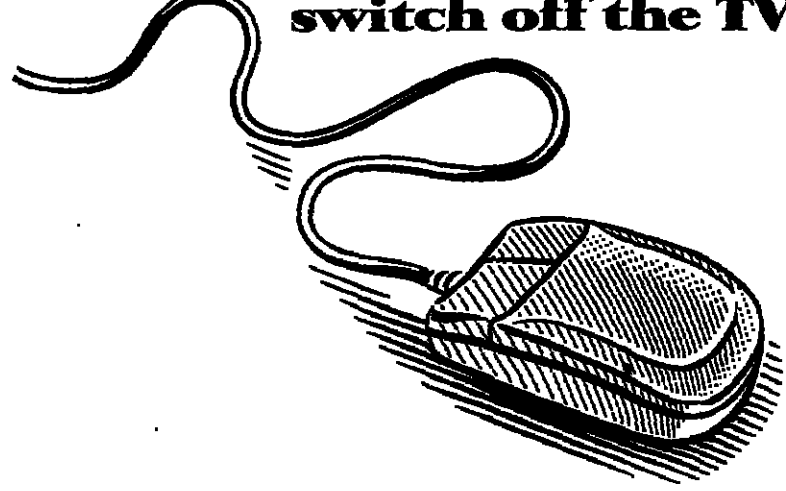
David Lyons, who control 60 per cent of Lanica. Lanica said yesterday that Mr Regan and Mr Lyons "intend to contest these proceedings vigorously".

Although the legal battle could last months, the Stock Exchange has agreed to allow Lanica's shares to begin trading as soon as it makes its position clear. The shares were suspended at £19.50 on February 10 after it emerged that Mr Regan was planning a bid to break up the CWS.

When Mr Regan took over the trust in October last year, its shares shot from 140p to £20.50, but are expected to plunge immediately they are relisted.

Jupiter Asset Management, one of the City firms that agreed to back Galileo, said yesterday that it had severed links with Mr Regan.

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TT 13



ELECTION '97

# House shorn of business know-how



Norman: Tory success

THE NUMBER of MPs with direct experience of business is at a record low after the general election, sparking fears that the gap between politicians and industry is now dangerously wide.

A high number of MPs were returned in both parties with backgrounds in local government, law and teaching. Research by the Public Policy Unit suggests only 9 per cent of the new MPs have a background in business and industry.

None of Labour's leading MPs

has strong business experience. Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor, is a former lecturer and TV editor. Alistair Darling, a potential Chief Treasury Secretary, is a former solicitor. Jack Cunningham, who is likely to get Industry, was a university fellow before entering politics.

However, Margaret Beckett, the new President of the Board of Trade, did spend five years as a metallurgist with AEL.

The Public Policy Unit, a leading think tank, said yesterday: "In every election there is an overwhelming

reduction in the number of MPs who have direct experience in industry. Yet these people are making vital decisions affecting businesses and industry."

"The nearest they come to business is visiting their local factory on the campaign trail. They have no understanding of small businesses and they don't know what it's like to survive on a day-to-day basis."

Ruth Lea, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, said: "Many MPs have not had direct experience of business because they

have been professional politicians. That applies to Brown, Cook, Prescott — I don't think any of them has actually had much experience in industry."

She went on: "Unless you have experience of something you can never understand what it's like. That doesn't necessarily mean that they will make bad politicians or bad chancellors. It's all a matter of how well advised they are by their civil servants. The Labour Party have done quite a lot to get business on-side, and a lot of business people

have gone over to them."

The number of Conservative MPs with business credentials has also plummeted after the poll. Among prominent losses were Ian Lang, the deposed President of the Board of Trade who was formerly a company director and insurance broker.

Several prospective candidates with business ties failed to get elected. Jason Hollands of the brokers BEST Investment fought Easington for the Conservatives but lost to Labour by more than 30,000 votes, while Sebastian Grigg of

Goldman Sachs, also standing for the Conservative, lost Heywood and Middleton.

Among the few notable successes were Archie Norman, chairman of the Asda supermarket group, who won Tunbridge Wells for the Tories, and Howard Flight, Guinness Flight fund manager, took Arundel South Downs. Ruth Kelly, a former Bank of England economist, won Bolton North East for Labour.

NATHAN YATES AND CHRIS AYRES

## Brown expected to target corporate sector in Budget

THE City is expecting the new Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise corporate taxes in his first Budget.

As Gordon Brown began work at the Treasury yesterday, there were also suggestions that his team is drawing up plans to alter capital gains tax as part of a policy aimed at encouraging long-term investment. A mooted petrol tax increase would hit business and private motorists.

City analysts believe that manifesto promises have so limited Mr Brown's scope to raise personal taxes that the scheduled July mini-Budget would have to target the corporate sector for increased revenue.

Mr Brown has hinted during the campaign that he believes there is a hole in the public spending plans and has said that he will commission an audit to examine the problem. There is also growing pressure from a number of economic

think-tanks and business organisations, such as the CBI, to raise taxes — rather than interest rates — to help to cool the economy without further strengthening the pound.

Labour made only two specific mini-Budget pledges during the campaign — a windfall tax on utility profits and a reduction in VAT on fuel from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

The party actually ruled out any increases in income tax rates or National Insurance and said it would not extend VAT to products such as children's clothes, newspapers and public transport.

Labour's manifesto also said it would review the corporate and capital gains-tax system to see how the tax system can promote greater long-term investment.

Mr Brown is understood to

have installed his long-standing advisers — Ed Balls, Charlie Whelan and Ed Milliband — in a policy unit within the Treasury.

The new Chancellor has two options to increase corporate tax — reducing advanced corporation tax or raising company taxation levels.

A reduction in ACT, from 20 to 10 per cent, would be following a policy begun by Norman Lamont, a former Chancellor. ACT is taken from companies' profits at source rather than being paid out of dividends. It is an advance instalment of corporation tax which makes no difference to the total levied.

But when receiving dividends, higher rate taxpayers must make up the difference between ACT (currently 20 per cent) and their income tax rate of 40 per cent. This means they now pay 20 per cent of their dividend in tax, whereas if ACT were reduced to 10 per cent it would rise to 30 per cent.

Institutions, such as pension fund holders, who are not liable for tax can also claim back the ACT that has been paid by the company they hold shares in.

Price Waterhouse calculates that completely abolishing ACT would save the Government £3 billion.

A slightly more visible increase would be an additional 2 per cent on corporation tax, which would bring an extra £2 billion.

Mr Brown is believed to have a couple of early targets in the personal sector including the reduction of mortgage interest rate relief (MIRAS).

Currently, borrowers receive MIRAS at 15 per cent of the interest payments on the first £30,000 of their mortgage. Abolishing this would bring in an extra £2.7 billion.

ALASDAIR MURRAY AND NATHAN YATES

## City puts money on a quarter-point rise

MR BROWN is likely to raise interest rates after his meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on Wednesday.

Mr Brown has outlined plans for a far-reaching shake-up of the Bank, broadening the Bank's monetary policy committee to include three or four outsiders. He has also said that he wants to announce interest rate decisions immediately after the meeting but will stick with publishing the minutes, although he wants a clearer explanation of the decision.

The new Chancellor is likely to be torn between trying to establish instant anti-inflation credibility by raising rates

and arguing that he has not had time to weigh all the options and that a rate rise should be delayed until June.

Mr George has used the last few meetings to press for a quarter-point rise while some City analysts have called for a half-point rise because of fears that consumer spending and service sector growth may be accelerating out of control. The consensus in the City yesterday was that Mr Brown would make a quarter-point rise following the meeting.

ALASDAIR MURRAY



Ready Eddie: Mr George holds his first meeting with the new Chancellor on Wednesday

## Business to urge care over setting of pay level

LABOUR'S promised statutory minimum wage was causing business leaders concern yesterday.

Business believes that unless a national minimum wage is set very carefully, it will push up companies' costs and lead to job losses.

Significantly, most business leaders refrained from openly attacking the minimum wage policy, preferring to opt for emphasising that business now needed to work closely with the Government to implement it sensibly.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said that the "priority is now to ensure that the Government reflects business interests in the detail of implementation".

Chambers of commerce leaders gave a warning against setting a minimum wage that would harm competitiveness.

The Government will now ask business leaders to join a new Low Pay Commission to help it to set the level for its proposed statutory national minimum wage. Business leaders will join employees' representatives on the new body, expected to be roughly the size of a local authority council, to examine the issue of a minimum wage and to propose a minimum pay level for the first and subsequent years of its operation.

Ministers are keen to move its composition beyond the traditional Labour corporatist partners of the CBI and the Trades Union Congress, though both will be asked to nominate participants as part of the wider body.

The LPC is likely to be

established as an independent body connected to the Department for Education and Employment. It will study the operation of minimum wages in countries used to operating such a system, including the US and Japan, before proposing a specific wage level in detail.

Ministers recognise that the setting of such a level is both a highly sensitive and highly technical exercise, and that it will have an economic impact well beyond the low-paid workers to whom it is meant to apply.

As well as helping to alleviate low pay — especially for women — ministers insist that a national minimum wage, set sensibly, will lead to reductions in the £4 billion currently spent on in-work benefits like Family Credit, which they believe act as a taxpayers' subsidy to employers paying very low wages.

Ministers will not be bound by the recommendations of the LPC, since the actual setting of a legal minimum wage will be for the Cabinet, though they accept that rejecting the Commission's advice would lead to a loss of its credibility, especially among business leaders.

The LPC is likely to be established, and to begin work, ahead of the Bill that will be required to establish a statutory national minimum.

Ministers recognise that even if a minimum wage Bill is brought forward in the Queen's Speech on May 14, its provisions are unlikely to be in place before the late summer of next year at the earliest.

PHILIP BASSETT

## Ministers to seek early action on computer bug

THE new Government is to put pressure on public sector bodies to take account of the computer problems that loom with the year 2000.

Geoff Hoon, shadow minister of technology until the election, says it is vital that public sector bodies move quickly to combat the millennium bug. He says that delay will lead to an escalation of the cost of correcting systems. Mr Hoon said Labour will make dealing with the bug a matter of urgency and require government departments to produce

impact reports well before the current August deadline.

He said: "I have been concerned for some time that the Government had not taken the issue seriously enough. There will be a limited amount of resource to combat this problem and it seems the private sector is getting in first."

The millennium bug will affect computers that store dates in two-digit format and

will be unable to understand how "00" comes after "99". Government bodies, such as the Department of Social Security and the National Health Service, which keep most of their records in old-style computer systems, are in the highest-risk category.

Robin Guenier, director of the Government-sponsored Taskforce 2000, last month costed the bill to the public sector at about £7 billion — a figure that he says can only be hypothetical because it is now too late to spend the sum.

He said: "We are now looking at radical prioritisation and even damage limitation because time and resources are disappearing fast. The millennium bug will come smack in the middle of the next Government's term, and it could be the most serious issue facing the nation since the BSE crisis. If the public sector is late in getting round to doing something, who is going to help them?"

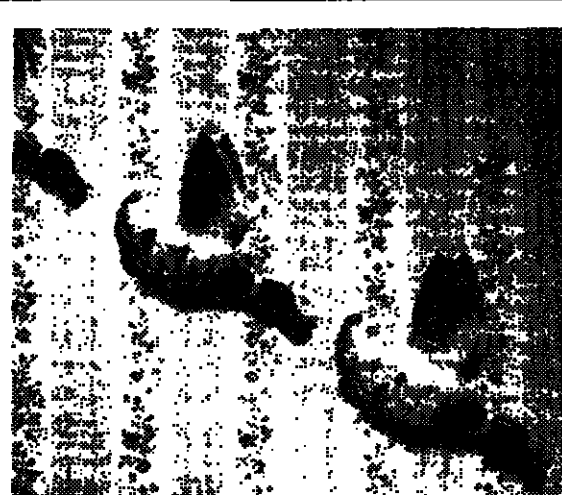
Logica, the computer services group, has said that fees for correcting the millennium bug are likely to double within the next 12 months alone. The company, one of Britain's three largest computing groups, estimated that it would cost a medium-sized company £1.5 million to update old-style data now, but £3.3 million to do it next April.

Analysts say that introduction of a single European currency would require new computer spending that would dwarf the millennium problem. Although many firms are adapting their computers to recognise dates in the next century, hardly any have capacity to account for a two-tier currency system.



Geoff Hoon says public sector bodies must move quickly

FRASER NELSON



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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: MASOUD ALIKHANI

## Capitalist who shares an office with Castro

Middlesex Holdings is led by a Muslim who once worked on a kibbutz. Jason Nissé meets a man who ventures where others fear to tread

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

THERE are not many chief executives of public companies who have pictures of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro on their wall. And there are not many Iranian Muslims who have worked on a kibbutz in Israel and were educated at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Indeed, there are not many metals trading groups that are used as financial advisers by Gazprom, the giant Russian group that claims to be the world's largest gas company. In fact, Masoud Alikhani and his company, Middlesex Holdings, have many claims to be unique.

Perched on the top floor of a bright white office block overlooking Swiss Cottage in north London, Middlesex's offices give off a strongly international feel. Alikhani and Farhad Moshiri, his managing director, are both from Iran, but are now naturalised British subjects. Lord Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, is the chairman and the board also boasts Alexander Vladislavlev, who was deputy to Eduard Shevardnadze as Foreign Minister of the USSR. Alikhani's office is cluttered with mementos of his upbringing and travels. Pride of place goes to a

6 If we don't like what's on offer we just eat caviar, he smiles

series of pictures by Raul Corral Fornos, the Cuban who was chosen by Fidel Castro as the official photographer of the revolution that put him in charge of Cuba. Apart from an early shot of Castro picking his way through the jungle there is a portrait of Che Guevara, the Bolivian revolutionary, Ernest Hemingway and Gregory, the fisherman who was the inspiration for Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Alikhani picked the set up when he visited Cuba on a business trip and spotted a picture on the desk on the trade minister. He effected an introduction to Corral who gave Alikhani the originals.

The trip to Cuba produced little financial benefit, but it shows Alikhani's willingness to do business in places where other Western companies fear to tread. Alikhani and Moshiri spend large amounts of their time in the former Soviet Union, either setting up financial deals or visiting their joint ventures in southern Russia, the Urals and Tajikistan.

Until Moshiri came on board last year and Middlesex set up a Russian office, Alikhani was travelling east as often as twice a week. Even now he expects to be in the former Soviet Union at least eight days a month. Unlike many businessmen, he is unconcerned about the supposed high level of crime in Russia, which he says is exaggerated.

A large bull of a man with a broad Middle Eastern face, Alikhani does not use a bodyguard in Russia, claiming that having one makes you more of a target as it signals that you might have something worth protecting. Travelling round the

former Soviet Union can be a problem. Alikhani tends to fly by Aeroflot and is highly fatalistic about the airline's safety record. However, he often charts an aircraft to visit Middlesex's joint venture steelmill in southern Russia. Although it is only 650 miles from Moscow, there is no direct flight and the train takes 15 hours.

Accommodation is usually good at the plants because they were designed by French and German engineers, who built their own guest-houses before they started work. Food in Tajikistan is to Alikhani's liking, being identical to Persian cuisine. But even though all the factories in Russia have their own farms as they were set up as self-sufficient co-operatives, the food can be questionable. "If we don't like what's on offer we just eat caviar," Alikhani smiles.

Russians like to drink vodka to celebrate deals and the drinking can be quite heavy. "The Russians have an interesting habit of making toasts," Alikhani explains. "This is very important in doing business and living with Russians. You cannot drink unless you make a toast and when someone makes a toast everyone has to have at least a sip. Russians use toasts to get problems out in the open. They will say: 'Here is a toast to Michael who I am unhappy with because of so and so, but he is my brother so I love him'. If they make an important toast, to Russia or to their mother, you have to drain the glass."

Alikhani's understanding of Russia, its traditions and its people put him at a great advantage. Other British groups such as Boots, BG and Unilever are

now rushing into Russia, but Middlesex has an advantage, because it has been involved there since 1988. Alikhani's interest in Russia was sparked by his son Arian, who wanted to study in Moscow. He decided to travel with Arian to see perestroika in action. "It was interesting for both of us," remembers Alikhani. "I went as a young person to a kibbutz in 1961 and Russia was just the going back to a kibbutz. The people were very idealistic and positive. I could see there were opportunities, but I did not know where they lay."

His first deal was backing a bakery business. Alikhani had been approached by a business contact who wanted him to raise \$1 million for a venture, but he talked down the figures. "Russian people are always too ambitious," he says. "They never say they want to go to the moon, they always want to go to Mars." Alikhani pointed to the queues for bread. He told his Russian associates that he could buy ovens and baking equipment from Israel and they could sell bread. The venture was a massive success, expanding to two other Russian cities.

This inspired Alikhani to give up his job with Prudential-Bache, the US securities firm, and concentrate on business oppor-



Masoud Alikhani's financial background combines with a willingness to do business where other Western companies fear to tread, particularly Russia

tunities in Russia. He soon found himself involved in metals trading when he came across an aluminium smelting plant in Tajikistan that had been built by Pechiney, the French group, for the Soviet Government. The smelter was suffering because it did not have the foreign currency to buy the raw materials for aluminium. Alikhani raised the finance in the West to buy the raw materials and was paid in finished aluminium, which he sold at the London Metals Exchange.

He soon moved into other raw materials such as steel, copper and timber and, in November 1993, reversed his Russian interests into Middlesex. The group started as the vehicle for Phil Edmonds, the former England cricketer who gave up spinning to take on the world of commerce, without much luck. With a quoted vehicle, Alikhani could give his Russian partners the confidence that they were being taken seriously in the West.

Alikhani's long-term commitment to Russia is a great benefit. "Russian friends call me the farmer. They say: 'Masoud has the patience of a farmer' because a farmer plants a tree for the next generation. They say I am not here to make a fast buck." The Russians could not be closer to the truth, as Alikhani started life as the

son of a farmer in central Iran, 56 years ago. Fascinated by the revolutionary farming techniques being used in Israel, he studied agronomy at the Hebrew University, something that would be

unthinkable in the highly charged Middle East of today. Returning to Iran, he worked as an agricultural engineer for six years before joining Du Pont, the giant US chemicals group, as its representative in Iran.

The Seventies were a period of boom in Iran and Alikhani expanded his interests into a whole series of business ventures. But the writing was on the wall.

The fundamentalist revolution in 1979 could have been a disaster for Alikhani. Not only did he have connections with the "great Satans" of the US and Israel, but also his wife was Jewish. A strike closed the schools for six months before the revolution and gave Alikhani the opportunity to move his family to London. With Tehran in turmoil, he joined them.

For a couple of years he harboured thoughts of returning. "I didn't do much. I read a lot and played tennis and walked on Hampstead Heath." Eventually he decided he was not going back to Iran, applied for British citizenship and took a job as a financial consultant for Prudential-Bache.

Alikhani's original job was to sell financial products to the Middle East, but, increasingly, he became interested in working for himself. This financial background has helped Alikhani in his latest role as financial adviser to Gazprom. The giant Russian group brought Middlesex in to help it with its financing needs, as it is facing a tax bill variously reported as being anything up to \$5 billion. Gazprom is now issuing a \$2 billion Eurobond backed by two Western firms, ABN Amro and Goldman Sachs. But Reni Vyachirev, Gazprom's chairman, felt intimidated by the youthful rocket scientists from the financial firms, and wanted someone to help to bridge the gap. Alikhani found a role that could use his knowledge of Russia and the international financial markets.

It is a long way from farming in Iran.

## Lost for words

ONE of the casualties of the bloodbath among Tory MPs is any further legislation on the rights of members of building societies converting into public companies, because one of those culled was Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucestershire. Mr French had planned a fourth Private Member's Bill to take in those unjustly excluded from windfalls as the second-named holders of accounts. Alas, this will now not be.

The last time his successes were mentioned in this newspaper, it sparked a vicious but sadly unprintable response from Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, right on French's patch. I tried to approach Longhurst for some words of commiseration about his old enemy's poils defeat, but the great man was unavailable. This has to be the first time in living memory that Longhurst has refused to push his name forward into the public press, but I suppose grief takes different people different ways.

SOME post-election soundbites are better left un-



"You're an ex-MP looking for a place on the board. I'm afraid it's a buyer's market"

said. From Swan Hill, formerly Higgs and Hill and part of that hot-bed of socialist reform, the building employers, pipes up John Theakston, its genial chief executive. "It is also to be hoped that the new Government will take a sensible and balanced attitude to planning policy." Translated: "All right, you win. Can we please concrete over the Green Belt now?"

## Land-locked

STRANGE stories swirling around Conrad Ritblat, the smaller quoted property company of John Ritblat, one of the shrewdest movers on the property scene. The company has just completed a £10 million cash call, and someone not a million miles from one of the advisers was overheard speaking enthusiastically earlier this week about the prospects of a bid from Ritblat's rather bigger vehicle, British Land. Conrad has been heading away from estate agency into pure property, to the extent, so the story goes, that Ritblat himself cannot quite see the point of maintaining a quote for two such similar companies. The story is, alas, not true, according to Ritblat himself, a point worth bearing in mind if anyone approaches you with it. "Conrad Ritblat's such an absolute minnow compared to British Land," he says. "I wouldn't even have been able to find it."

POOR Marjorie Scardino. On Friday, the new chief executive of Pearson learnt the hard way that Pearson annual meetings are not always fun. She was accused of passing dud cheques. "I want to make sure she doesn't do the same with our dividend cheques," said one Simon Isard. Turns out that Isard worked in the Coopers & Lybrand office in New York



when Ms Scardino was running The Economist, then a Coopers client. The cheque to Coopers did bounce, but only because the numbers and the words did not match.

## Bitter draught

GRAHAM WILSON, the man who has taken on one of the least enviable jobs in corporate Britain, chairman of Matthew Clark, is a smooth and accomplished liar. There are two pieces of evidence for this. One, he trained as a lawyer — the prosecution rests, m'lud. Second, he claims to enjoy Diamond White, the fizzy, sweet bottled cider that is produced by Diamond White for the Essex City trade. His claim becomes a little more believable when he admits that he drinks the stuff cold, because medical science teaches us that chilling numbs the taste buds. But it certainly bears out his claim that "I know nothing about cider."

His appointment brings to three the non-executives on the board. To one former metal-basher, Michael Garner, ex-finance director of TI Group, and one ad man, Martin Boase, we can now add a media expert. None of the other two therefore know much about cider either, but, heigh ho, that's the non-executives carousel for you.

Wilson certainly knows how to mend fences with the City, which will come in handy

after last autumn's profits warning.

THEY say never go back, but banking analyst Hugh Pye is doing so. Having left Robert Fleming for BZW four years ago, Pye is returning to Fleming. A curious move, you might think. Gossip is that Pye, on gardening leave until July, may not have been best pleased with his bonus this year.

## Portillo post?

NOW the Tory chicken run has just widened by several hundred yards, I suppose we had better try and find some useful City jobs for some of those sacked Tory grandees. Mellor doesn't need the cash, and Lamont had better not show his face around here again. Most of the rest are too dim for merchant banking, which leaves stockbroking or, slipping rather further down the scale, financial public relations. But what about Prime-Minister-in-Waiting Portillo? Alas, too many City institutions are owned by Johnny Foreigner these days. Then inspiration dawns. Something for a man who is radical, dynamic but doomed to fail? Step forward, the new chairman of Larica Trust!

MARTIN WALLER



John Ritblat says talk of a bid for Conrad Ritblat is untrue

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# SFA refuses to let 'spot forex' firm trade

By Robert Miller

A SPECULATIVE foreign exchange dealing firm that targeted private investors has been refused authorisation by the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog for brokers and futures dealers.

Global Foreign Exchange Corporation (GFE) is the company of William "Bill" Newton, an unsuccessful Referendum Party candidate. Mr Newton, who polled 545 votes in

the London constituency of Southwark North and Bermondsey, was told yesterday by the SFA that GFE had been refused authorisation to sell highly volatile and speculative investment instruments to investors.

The SFA move is part of a determined drive by City regulators, led by the Securities and Investments Board, against firms dealing in "rolling spot forex" contracts.

In the past, thousands of investors have lost millions of pounds invest-

ing in speculative foreign exchange dealing services promoted by unauthorised firms that were not covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme. Investors are encouraged to gamble by betting on fluctuations in the global currency markets.

David Kennir, an SFA director, warned investors to be on their guard against such firms, which have moved to overseas bases and are "cold-calling" UK investors. He said: "We are working with the SIB on this

and we know of a number of firms who appear to have set up shop in Scandinavia, where we are co-operating closely with the authorities. More latterly, some operations have moved to Spain."

Since the SFA crackdown, 20 "rolling spot forex" firms have applied for authorisation to trade, but 13 have subsequently withdrawn. GFE is the first to be rejected. Six more applications are under consideration. GFE applied to the SFA for

authorisation in February 1996 after the SIB issued guidance confirming its view that certain speculative foreign exchange dealing services were investment businesses covered by the Financial Services Act. GFE now has 30 days to appeal against the decision in an SFA authorisation appeal tribunal.

The SIB is now reviewing the position of GFE in the light of the provisions of the guidance and the SFA's decision.

## Matthew Clark names chairman

By Adam Jones

MATTHEW CLARK, the beleaguered drinks group whose shares have fallen sharply over the past 12 months, yesterday announced the appointment of Graham Wilson, former managing director of United News & Media, as non-executive chairman.

Matthew Clark's share price slumped from more than 800p last summer to a current level of 276p, after its profits were hit by competition from "alcohol-free" drinks, which dented demand for the company's Diamond White and Dry Blackthorn ciders.

The company is trying to revitalise the brands with a summer advertising campaign. The advertising budget for the next 12 months has quadrupled to between £8 million and £10 million.

The company will next week launch a new cider, called Blackthorn Gold, designed to have a frothy head. Using "wider" technology, it will come in cans as well as draught.

One analyst said that the market for cider is still tough. However, he added: "A new launch will help a bit."

Mr Wilson, 54, received a £600,000 payoff when United merged with M&L. He is also a non-executive director of Legal & General Recovery Investment Trust, and chairman of the management committee of Theodore Goddard, the law firm. Since the death, in October, of Michael Cottrell, Matthew Clark's previous chairman, the role has been filled temporarily by Michael Garner. The new appointment follows the recruitment of Rob MacNevin, Guinness marketing chief, as marketing director.

Matthew Clark products include Strathmore mineral water and Stowells of Chelsea wine boxes.

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## Restructuring benefits help to improve margins in Europe

# Profits rise lifts Unilever shares

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Unilever rose strongly to a high yesterday as the food and toiletries group reported first-quarter operating profits 16 per cent ahead at £61 million.

However, pre-tax profits made more modest progress, rising 7 per cent to £538 million. The result was held back by unexpectedly high exceptional charges of £76 million. Unilever's shares rose 29p to close at £16.54.

Unilever, under Niall FitzGerald, chairman, did not explain the cause of the exceptional charge, although one theory was that it related to a distribution reorganisation in Turkey. One analyst said: "This is one of the highest first-quarter charges ever. We had assumed only an unchanged charge of £15 million."

Europe was the main source of the higher profits, lifting its contribution from £254 million to £360 million. Although sales were only marginally ahead at £3.81 billion, restructuring benefits helped to improve margins from 6.8 per cent to 9.4 per cent.

Asia and Pacific was the only other region to improve margins, helped by strongly rising sales of home and personal care products in India and South East Asia. Profits increased from £90 million to £107 million. Sales grew to £1.2 billion.

Group sales were just short of £8 billion, 5 per cent higher



Under Niall FitzGerald, chairman, Unilever has seen operating profits rise in the first quarter in Europe and Asia

than last year. Although sales were 10 per cent higher in North America because of acquisitions, a slow start to the year by the foods business left profits 11 per cent lower at £92 million. Margins slid from 6.9

to 5.6 per cent. Africa and Middle East and Latin America also made less money. The sharp fall in profits from Africa and Middle East, down from £32 million to £17 million, was blamed on the

reorganisation in Turkey. Latin American sales remained very strong, rising 7 per cent to £832 million, but profits slipped back to £85 million (£93 million) because of increased marketing invest-

ments and a first-time contribution to group costs by the Brazilian arm.

Net debt was down to £1.9 billion from £2.8 billion.

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## Setback for News Corp digital TV plans in US

By Eric Reguly

PLANS by The News Corporation, the parent company of The Times, to launch a digital satellite service in America have suffered another blow with the loss of a top News Corp executive.

Preston Padden, chairman and chief executive of ASkyB, News Corp's satellite company in the US, resigned on Thursday over a reported conflict with Charles Ergen, chairman of EchoStar, a rival operator,

which has been negotiating a merger with ASkyB.

News Corp would not comment other than to say that talks with EchoStar continue. A spokesman said that ASkyB would probably know next week whether it would join forces with EchoStar. Last week EchoStar gave warning that News Corp may abandon its merger plans unless EchoStar used a News Corp "conditional access" system.

## Glaxo Wellcome on target

By Paul Durman

GLAXO WELLCOME, the UK pharmaceuticals company, has begun developing ten potential new drugs so far this year and is "well on track" to meet its target of bringing three significant new medicines to market each year from 2000 onwards.

James Nield, research and development director, told a City presentation that the drugs company expects to start developing more than 20 new molecules in 1997. Glaxo Wellcome also re-

vealed that sales of treatments for respiratory disease now exceed sales from Zantac and other gastro-intestinal drugs. Zantac, which has underpinned Glaxo's growth over the past two decades, will shortly lose its US patent protection.

The company is therefore keen to reassure the City that it has plenty of new products in its pipeline.

It regards asthma as an important growth area. Glaxo Wellcome intends to combine its drugs Flutide/Flovent and Serenit to take advan-

tage of the "enormous potential" in this area.

The company also gave details of new treatments for influenza, HIV, migraine, hepatitis, diabetes and strokes. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said this portfolio of products "reinforces" our prediction that in 1999 we expect sales growth to be in double digits. The quality, depth and diversity of our pipeline supports our view that Glaxo Wellcome is with-out equal in its commitment to finding new medicines through leading edge science."

## CrestCo seeks to lift borrowing limit

CRESTCO, operator of the computerised share settlement system Crest, is seeking to raise its borrowing limit to £35 million after losing £7.1 million last year. The money is likely to be earmarked for incorporating the CGO system for settling UK government bonds, due to be set up by the Bank of England in August. Adapting systems for European monetary union would be another major project, Jonathan Hodes, finance director, said. Mr Hodes added that fixing the borrowing level would help it to pay dividends to its 69 shareholders earlier than currently envisaged.

Monthly revenues reached £1.5 million last month when the transfer of stocks to Crest was completed. It currently has £17 million of debts which it aims to pay off in the year 2000. Iain Saville, chief executive, received £208,000 last year, including an £88,000 bonus. The company also paid Cap Gemini £2.2 million for running its computer systems and £700,000 to TNT for processing share certificates between brokers and registrars.

## Haemocell trims loss

HAEMOCELL will shortly take on full responsibility for UK sales of its blood filtration system, replacing its distributor in an attempt to achieve better sales and margins. The company, recently rescued by a £2 million share issue, suffered a small fall in sales to £204,000 in the six months to February 28, but cut losses from £730,000 to £412,000. Trevor Wilson, the former operations director who stood down to a non-executive role in January, is to leave the company after eight years.

## Deutsche acquisition

DEUTSCHE MORGAN GRENELL will pay A\$240 million (£116 million) for Axiom, the Australian asset manager. It has been confirmed. Axiom is the main pension fund for New South Wales government employees, holding A\$19 billion; this renewable deal runs for five years. Axiom, Australia's fifth-biggest fund manager, is to offer other asset management services. Rising private pension provision in Australia will double funds held by asset managers to A\$500 billion, it is expected.

## Investment trusts reply

THE Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) yesterday hit back at claims by Credit Lyonnais Lang, the stockbroker, that the investment trust industry was "in danger of sliding into relative obscurity", with oversupply of trusts. David Harris, AITC director of adviser services, said that investment trusts had a "strong and viable future". The AITC said that investment trust shares are at an average 11 per cent discount to net asset value, offering "excellent potential value".

## Ranger earnings jump

RANGER OIL, the North American energy company with extensive interests in the North Sea, lifted first-quarter earnings to \$26.7 million before tax from \$9.5 million in the first three months of 1996. Oil and gas revenues increased 55 per cent to \$99.1 million. Results also benefited from a reduction in depletion and depreciation charges as a result of increased proven oil reserves in the North Sea. The quarterly dividend is unchanged at 8 cents a share.

## BP confirms oil find

BP has confirmed that it has made a find at its offshore Alaskan Liberty prospect of an estimated 120 million barrels of recoverable oil. BP said the discovery, on the North Slope, had commercial potential and that it will go ahead with development. Appraisal drilling took place in February and March on the Liberty prospect, which is 11 miles southeast of the Endicott development and five miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea. Oil was first discovered in the area in 1982.

## Ultra's American deal

ULTRA ELECTRONICS HOLDINGS has bought Flightline Electronics for \$125 million. The acquisition is Ultra's second in America, and comes after the purchase of Measurement Systems in July. Flightline designs and makes sonobuoy telemetry receivers for maritime patrol aircraft and gyroscopes for aircraft instruments. In 1996 it earned operating profits of \$2.6 million on sales of \$11.6 million. Flightline sells in aerospace and defence markets.

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## Jefferson Smurfit US chief bows out

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

JUST eight months after becoming chief operating officer of Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, Eric Priestley has left the company after disagreements over his role and responsibility.

The surprise announcement was made after the company's annual meeting in St Louis. Jefferson Smurfit Corporation is the 46.5 per cent owned US associate of the Jefferson Smurfit paper group, which has its headquarters in Dublin.

According to industry sources, Mr Priestley, 54, has had difficulty striking up a good working relationship with Richard Graham, the company's president and chief executive officer. Mr Graham, 62, held the post of chief operating officer before Mr Priestley's appointment. A company spokesman re-

fused to elaborate on the reasons for the sudden departure. "All I can say is that it was by mutual agreement. There were disagreements about the responsibilities and role of a chief operating officer," he said. The spokesman also refused to disclose details of Mr Priestley's severance package.

Mr Graham is to resume the duties of chief operating officer until a replacement is found.

Jefferson Smurfit Corporation incurred a loss of \$7 million for the first quarter of 1997, compared with a profit of \$53 million. The results were in line with market expectations because of the widely signalled slump in linerboard prices. Over capacity in the industry is expected to depress prices for the rest of this year.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.15	1.99
Austria Sch	20.51	18.97
Belgium Fr	65.42	55.78
Canada \$	2.34	2.169
Cyprus Cyp£	0.869	0.802
Denmark Kr	11.14	10.51
Finland Mk	8.86	8.19
France Fr	6.81	6.09
Germany Dr	2.21	2.11
Greece Dr	487	450
Hong Kong \$	13.23	12.10
Iceland	127	107
Ireland P	1.13	1.05
Israel Sh	5.78	5.13
Italy Lit	2091	2699
Japan Yen	218.10	201.80
Malta	0.658	0.599
Netherlands Gld	3.310	3.023
New Zealand \$	2.48	2.20
Norway Kr	12.02	11.14
Portugal Esc	207.00	270.50
S Africa Rd	7.87	6.99
Spain Pta	245.50	228.00
Sweden Kr	13.56	12.88
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.31
Turkey Lira	225.00	210.00
USA \$	1.71	1.577

Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow

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# Equities scale new heights

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
27.75	27.50	Alcochem	27.62	+0.12	+0.4	15.2
27.75	27.50	Alcochem	27.62	+0.12	+0.4	15.2
27.75	27.50	Alcochem	27.62	+0.12	+0.4	15.2
27.75	27.50	Alcochem	27.62	+0.12	+0.4	15.2
27.75	27.50	Alcochem	27.62	+0.12	+0.4	15.2

## BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bank of America	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bank of America	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bank of America	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bank of America	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bank of America	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
16.12	16.00	Beck's	16.06	+0.06	+0.4	12.1
16.12	16.00	Beck's	16.06	+0.06	+0.4	12.1
16.12	16.00	Beck's	16.06	+0.06	+0.4	12.1
16.12	16.00	Beck's	16.06	+0.06	+0.4	12.1
16.12	16.00	Beck's	16.06	+0.06	+0.4	12.1

## BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## Mining

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## TEXTILES & APPAREL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1
11.12	11.00	Bechtel	11.06	+0.06	+0.5	12.1

## WATER

High	Low
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## UNIT TRUST PRICES 39

مكتبة ابن أبي عمير



**C**hildren under the age of 15 may be interested in new savings accounts from Bradford & Bingley. The KIDZONE account can be opened with a minimum of £10 and the maximum balance permitted is £25,000. The interest rate on investments between £10 and £499 is 5.80 per cent gross per annum and 6 per cent per annum on balances over £500. A free Penguin or Puffin book will be given to youngsters as an incentive. Call 0800 592588.

■ **The number of insurers offering pet health cover to the UK's 10 million cat and dog-owning households has more than doubled in the past two years.** As part of National Pet Week, which runs until May 11, PAWS, the pet insurer, is voicing concern that cheap insurance is not always the best option. PAWS Pet Insurance has produced a free leaflet, which includes details of discounts available for crossbreed pets. Call 0121 626 7891.

■ THE David Aaron Partnership is offering a new tax year action pack for 1997-98 comprising: *A Guide to the Independent Taxation of Married Couples*, *The Smart Investors*, *Information Playing Field*, published by John Wiley & Sons, will be available in bookshops, priced £19.99, from May 15.

LIZANNE ROSE

**ANNUAL INCOME**  
Rates as at May 1, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.35
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	5.90
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.05
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
2 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.25
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.35
3 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.53
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.63
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.73
4 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
5 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	7.00

Source: Chamberlain de Broé 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	5.75	Yr
Nationwide BS 0800 685511	Invest Direct	Postal	£500	6.40	Yr
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Instant	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Yr
Nationwide BS 0800 685511	Invest Direct	Postal	£10,000	6.45	Yr

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 958 4422	Postal Plus	30 day p	£2,500	6.40	Yr
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Select Instant	60 day p	£25,000	6.70	Yr
Scarbrough BS 0800 590578	Scarbrough 100	100 day	£1,000	8.30	Yr
Leopold Joseph 0171 588 2323	100 Day Notice	100 day	£11,000	6.54	Yr

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/YM
Bank of Ireland (GB) 0800 971971	Fixed+feeder opt	5 year	£3,000	7.50	F/YM
New Bromwich BS 0990 143658		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Y/Y
Monmouthshire BS 01633 840454		5 year	£1,000	7.00	Y/Y

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	interest per month	APR%	fee per annum
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	N
Capital One Bank 0800 689000	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	N
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	N

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS			
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 years with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	11.90% <sup>4</sup> H	£112.82	£102.45
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90% <sup>4</sup> A	£120.02	£101.26
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.48

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount	Lender	Interest rate %
Birmingham Midlands	9.375%	105.86	8.840	100.17	1,000	Building Societies	
Bradford & Bingley	11.825%	130.58	8.903	100.13	10,000	Northern Rock	4.79
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	145.93	8.908	100.20	10,000	0800 591500	
Bristol & West	13.000%	150.98	8.880	100.34	1,000	Woodwich	4.28
Edinania	10.00%	148.43	8.918	100.42	1,000	North branch	
Coverity 125%	12.25%	136.84	8.825	100.75	1,000	Norwold	4.38
First National	11.750%	130.98	8.973	100.25	10,000	0800 302010	
Halifax	8.750%	102.21	8.581	100.82	50,000	Banks	
Halifax	12.000%	136.01	8.487	100.28	50,000	Bank of Ireland	0.09
Halifax	13.825%	158.01	8.823	100.00	50,000	01189 510100	
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	150.98	8.860	100.23	1,000	Royal Bank of Scot	4.25
Newcastle	12.25%	122.18	8.779	100.25	1,000	0600 121121	
Newcastle	12.625%	142.54	8.857	100.45	1,000		
Northern Rock	12.625%	144.47	8.739	100.14	1,000		
Skipton	12.875%	145.35	8.858	100.48	1,000		

<b>FLOATING RATE</b>	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase	<b>Lender</b>	<b>Interest rate %</b>
Cheshire (30/09-27/03) 9.04063%		113.25	100.00	1,000	Building Societies Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25
First Nat(22/09-20/03) 9.12031%		102.00	100.00	1,000		

LOOKING INTO HISTORICAL INSURANCE COVER		
		0191 232 0973
<p>Banko Bank of Ireland 01189 510100</p>		0.99
<p>Alliance &amp; Leicester 0800 412214</p>		4.25



Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
<b>Building Societies</b>				
Northern Rock 0800 591500	4.79	to £80k	95	2.50% discount to 1.6,2000
Woolwich Local branch	4.29	£20-200k	95	2.50% disc 12 mths 1.50% combi
Nationwide 0800 302010	4.39	£150-300k	90	2.60% discount for 1 year
<b>Banks</b>				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.25	£150-250k	90	3% discount to 1.10,97

LARGER LOANS				
Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.50% disc-0.6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1-
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Universal 0191 232 0973	1.24	£20-150k	95	6% discount to 1.7.98
Banka Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mth
Alliance & Leicester 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1.5.98

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
<b>Building Societies</b>				
Barclays Bank 0800 550547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 2%-6mth, 0.5%-1
Nottingham Impsr. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Universal 0191 232 0973	1.24	£20-150k	95	6% discount to 1.7.98
<b>Banks</b>				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mth
Abacus & Leicester 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1.5.98

	Mid	Offer	Wdy	Yld		Mid	Offer	Wdy	Yld
European Pk East	185.40	195.10	+ 3.00	...	<b>2 OLD MUTUAL</b>				
	216.70	228.10	+ 4.00	...	Bridgeway Wap. Hkbs	385.00	402.00	...	...
<b>LONDON LIFE</b>					Savory Fund	480.00	493.00	+ 3.00	...
Mid Atlantic	...	...	...	...	Fid Interest Acc	303.10	298.10	+ 3.20	...
NT 784 FTTT	...	...	...	...	International Acc	524.20	530.40	+ 0.40	...
Pac Ind	...	...	...	...	Mortgage Inv	366.00	372.00	+ 0.60	...
Prest Indent	1155.10	...	+16.10	...	Property Acc	218.20	221.00	+ 0.30	...
Property 1	499.00	...	+ 1.20	...	Money Acc	169.70	170.10	+ 0.10	...
Prest Indent	1020.00	...	+ 1.00	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Mutual 1	62.80	...	+0.70	...	Savings Reguler Acc	197.00	194.30	+ 0.30	...
Prest Indent	1020.00	...	+ 1.00	...	Prest Indent	122.00	124.00	+ 1.60	...
International 1	327.00	...	+ 7.00	...	Pacific Assurance	1370.00	1480.00	+ 7.80	...
Prest Indent	1020.00	...	+ 1.00	...	European Acc	290.10	276.40	+ 1.00	...
Fund Inv A 1	22.80	...	+ 3.40	...	<b>PEARL ASSURANCE</b>				
Fund Inv A 2	4.50	...	+ 0.50	...	The Pearl Coast Co	...	...	...	...
Investment 1	499.00	...	+ 0.10	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Fund Inv A 2	3.80	...	+ 0.20	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 1	191.20	...	+ 0.10	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 1	203.60	...	+ 4.30	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Distrib 1	170.20	...	+ 0.10	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Fund Inv A 1	2.80	...	+0.10	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Fund Inv A 2	0.90	...	+0.10	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Deposit 1	363.10	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 1	186.40	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 2	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 3	281.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 4	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 5	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 6	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 7	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 8	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 9	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 10	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 11	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 12	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 13	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 14	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 15	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 16	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 17	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 18	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 19	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...
Investment 20	305.00	...	+ 0.40	...	Prest Indent	118.20	122.00	+ 3.20	...

	10%	20%	40%	Investment C	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	0.80	10-10,000**		0645 845000
Investment A/c*	4.75	3.00	2.05			0645 845000
Income Tax	6.00	4.00	3,992.00	25-10,000**	1mth	0645 845000
First Opt Bond:	6.00	4.80	3,991.00	20-20,000**	3mth	0645 845000
44th Issue Cert:	5.35			100-10,000	6day	0645 845000
Children's Bond†	0.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 845000
Gen Est Rate	6.75					0645 845000
Capital Bonds	6.85	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	6day	0645 845000
10% Index-Linked‡	2.50			100-10,000	6day	0645 845000
Pension Bond §§	7.00	5.00	4.20	500-50,000	6day	0645 845000

\* First ETO (\$140 p) or int. tax free. \* First acts for up to \$100. \* Unlimited additional funds for reinvested proceeds. \* Tax free. \* Rates gross and sole guaranteed when held for 5 years. \* 0.2% net bonus for \$20,000-\$100,000 p in acct in 1st and 2nd rowings. \* Flexible but cred in full. \* \$500-100,000 earn higher rates. \*\* Tiered rates apply.

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age
Generall	Level	£ 9,880		£10,916	£12.2
Cardelia Life	Level	£ 9,792		£10,870	£12.3
Sun Lf of Can.	Level	£ 9,806		£10,847	£12.2
Standard Lf	Level	£ 8,778		£10,864	£12.2
Equitable Lf	Level	£ 9,505		£10,824	£12.0
SINGLE LIFE		Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age
Prudential	Level	£9,227		£10,036	£11.2
Cardelia Life	Level	£9,096		£ 9,901	£11.0
Generall	Level	£9,897		£ 9,839	£11.0
Sun Lf of Can.	Level	£9,068		£ 9,806	£10.8
Norwich Union	Level	£9,573		£ 9,765	£10.9

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
	Female:	Age 55	Age 60	Age 65
Prudential .....Level		£8,763	£9,290	£10,10
Generali .....Level		£8,664	£9,289	£10,15
Canada Life .....Level		£8,671	£9,287	£10,16
Sun Life of Can. ....Level		£8,680	£9,266	£10,06
Equitable Ltd. ....Level		£8,660	£9,186	£ 9.97


*Source: Society's Director (1971-52) 623-6231.*

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

Lender...	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
<b>Building Societies</b>				
Bristol & West 0800 119955	4.99	£15k+	95	Fixed to 1.3.98 plus 1% cashback
Newbury 01636 43676	3.99	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Hallifax 01422 333333	4.25no min/max		95	3%disc-31.5.99,0.5% over SVR-31.5.2004
<b>Banks</b>				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.89	to £125k	95	Fixed to 31.7.99

**Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 690482)**

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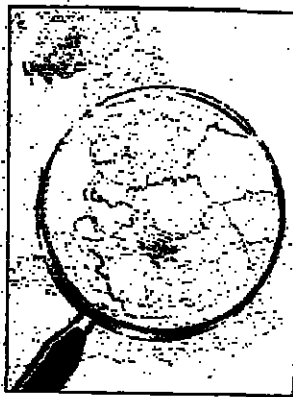
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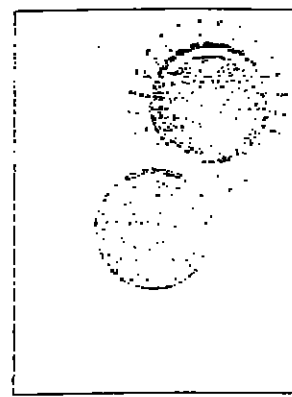
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● Full colour map of the new political landscape of Britain  
PAGE XVI



# THE TIMES ELECTION 97



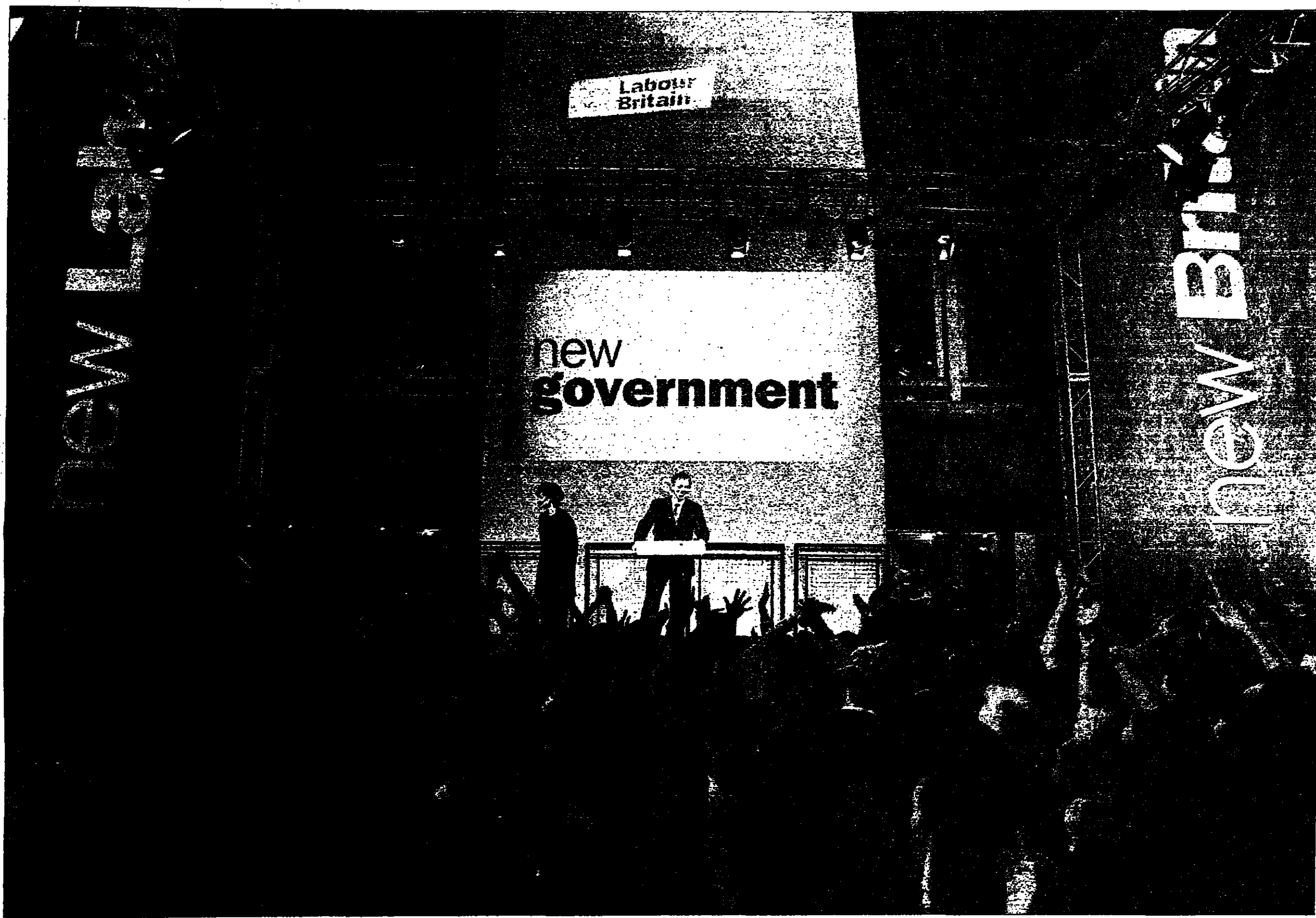
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● Who are the new MPs?

SATURDAY MAY 3 1997

This will go down less as a Labour victory than as the election the Tories lost, **Tim Hames** writes

## The tactics that triggered a landslide



Tony Blair addressing supporters during celebrations at the Royal Festival Hall in London early yesterday. His win left the Tories an exclusively English parliamentary party. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

DEPENDING on what yardstick one favours, the 1997 General Election was the worst performance by the Conservative Party since 1906, 1859 or 1832.

The disaster suffered by the Duke of Wellington 165 years ago — in a contest in which more than 90 per cent of the adult populace was deprived of the franchise — is not an especially useful comparison. "Damn democracy," said the Iron Duke in the aftermath of his mauling. Many Conservatives will feel the same this weekend.

The real benchmark is 1906, when the Conservatives collapsed from 402 to 157 seats. The Liberals won a stunning victory, increasing their strength from 184 to 400 seats. But exactly which historical example is the clearest precedent will be rather irrelevant to the scores of Tory candidates this weekend. The sheer scale of the Labour landslide swept away virtually all marginal seats, regardless of personal philosophy or quality. It also ended the careers of many figures who were perfectly entitled to think of themselves as occupying safe seats that would provide a lifetime of political employment.

The Tories won only 25 per cent of constituencies despite more than 30 per cent of the total votes cast. They would have done better under proportional representation. The first-past-the-post system has proved enormously helpful to a Labour Party formally committed to a referendum on its future.

In the past few days the Tory command had prepared itself for a heavy hammering. However, few thought the extent of Labour's victory could produce a majority much in excess of 125. The final majority figure — 179 — is far greater than either the Attlee triumph of 1945 or the Thatcher

route of 1983 and will have been an enormous shock to Conservative Central Office.

It will have been equally surprising, but considerably more pleasing, for the Labour strategists. The difference between majorities of 125 and 179 might seem academic to outside observers. In parliamentary terms it largely is, but the political impact is fundamental. Under what the Tories had assumed was their worst-case scenario, some cabinet ministers — Michael Forsyth, Ian Lang, Malcolm Rifkind and William Waldegrave — would have lost their seats as well as office. The extra, unexpected, Labour victories brought down Tony Newton and Michael Portillo as well.

The loss of the former Defence Secretary will prove at least as significant as the ejection of Chris Patten in Bath five years ago. The closest parallel with Mr Portillo's plight in 1997 is, ironically, that of Tony Benn, who lost his seat in Bristol in the Thatcher sweep of 1983. That upset precluded Mr Benn from entering the Labour leadership contest as the standard-bearer of the Left. It allowed Neil Kinnock the political space to capture the pole position. Mr Portillo's misfortune may now allow William Hague, the former Welsh Secretary, to emulate Mr Kinnock.

In one sense, the Tories were right to assume that a Labour majority under 130 was about as bad as it could get. The swing from the Government to the Labour Party was a little over 10 per cent. Labour scored 44.4 per cent compared with 31.3 per cent for the Tories. Tony Blair's party achieved only a modest advance in percentage terms from its performance in 1992 and 1970, which saw big defeats for Labour. The real story of this

The net result has been to leave the Conservatives with almost no urban representation. What remains is a party based almost entirely in the countryside and some suburbs

campaign has been the meltdown of Conservative support. It was the lowest since 1832, a full five points beneath their showing in October 1974, which until yesterday was the biggest Tory disaster this century. Nevertheless, the overall national result, had it been repeated uniformly across the country, would have produced a Labour majority of "only" 100 to 120 seats. Put another way, Mr Blair's lead of 13 percentage points delivered him his 179-seat margin. In 1993, the Tories were nearly 15 points ahead of Labour, but their majority was 35 seats lower.

A set of additional advantageous

factors pushed Labour even further over the top and damned the Conservatives to an exceptionally crushing debacle. Those were: the difference between regions masked by the national total; the disproportionate Labour surge in marginal seats; and the impact of the Liberal Democrats. Put together they turned a heavy defeat into an earthquake of historic proportions. The regional dimension was exceptionally important. Labour scored less than a 10 per cent swing in Scotland, Wales and the North of England. But these areas were already dominated by the party. It could afford a relatively modest

score. Even with this "under-performance", it could still remove all the remaining Tories from both Scotland and Wales.

The further south, the bigger the shift in Tony Blair's direction. In London and the Home Counties, Labour saw swings reaching up to 15 per cent. Such regions were rich in seats that Labour needed to win. Outer London saw exceptional swings against Tory candidates.

The net impact was to leave the Tories bereft of any representation in virtually all urban areas. Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Sheffield do not have a Conservative MP between them.

Liverpool had lost all its Tories by the 1979 ballot. Glasgow went completely red in 1983, Manchester the same in 1987, Leicester and Nottingham by 1992.

What remains is an exclusively English Tory parliamentary caucus, based on the countryside and some suburbs. That was broadly what the Tories resembled after the great 1906 trauma which also left them without an MP in Wales.

Regardless of region, the Conservatives did far worse in marginals than in more conventional constituencies. That had the obvious impact of stretching Labour's majority. That, too, had occurred in 1992, but not on a large enough scale to deprive John Major of 10 Downing Street. The movement in the marginals was nearly five points stronger than the national average. To some degree, although this can be overstated, this was the result of tactical voting, a concept much promised in the 1980s that never fully materialised.

The Liberal Democrats rubbed salt in the Tory wounds. Their share of the entire vote fell slightly from 18 per cent last time to 17 per cent on Thursday. Nonetheless, they managed to double their standing in the House of Commons compared with April 1992.

The ruthless and extremely effective targeting of Tory marginals delivered several upset victories, such as their triumph in Harrogate that dismissed Norman Lamont. But this concentration had a secondary effect: many seats, especially in southern England, were effectively abandoned. In places such as Hastings, Hove and Lewes, the Liberal vote slipped back and transferred itself almost entirely to new Labour. That ensured the demise of some Tories who must have thought themselves safe. This was the election when the Liberal

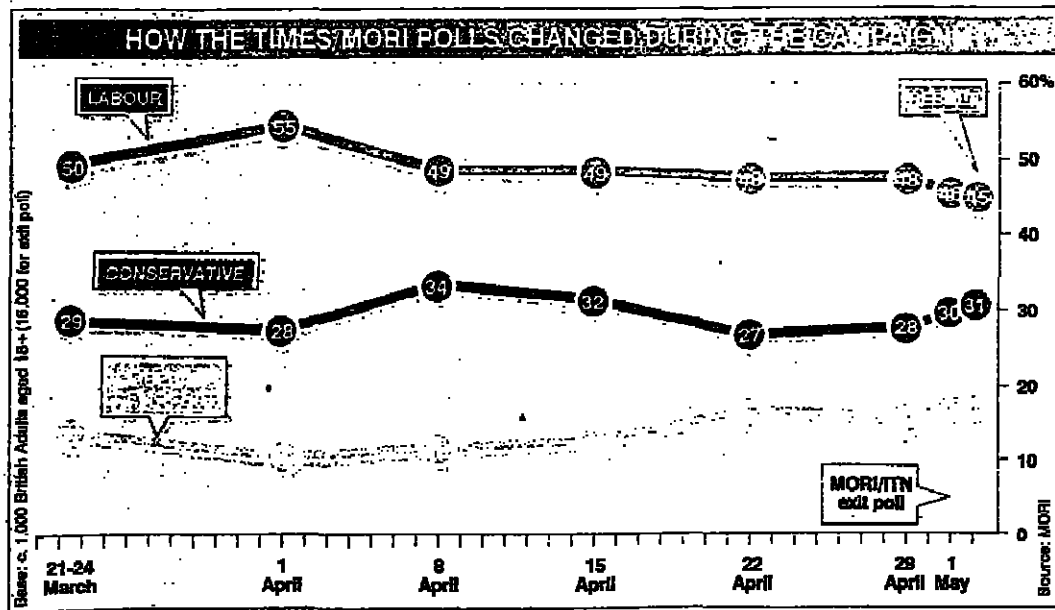
Democrats finally stopped moaning about the electoral system and started using it to their advantage.

All other factors are insignificant compared with these three elements. There is some evidence, especially in the South, that seats which saw an unusually sharp drop in turnout also witnessed an especially intense reduction in the Conservative vote. Labour was also affected by the 6 per cent slide in participation.

There seems to have been no special advantage (or disadvantage) in Conservative candidates coming out in Eurosceptic colours. The Tories now seem polarised between the two most extreme aspects of the Europe debate. Those figures associated with financial sleaze — Neil Hamilton and Michael Brown — suffered at the ballot box. Sexual indiscretion was more moderately punished. David Mellor lost, but Tim Yeo and Piers Merchant both survived.

Without wishing to take any credit away from Tony Blair, who exploited his opportunity with enormous skill, or Paddy Ashdown, who has managed a magnificent result for his party, it will be the destruction of the Conservatives in this contest that will excite the psephologists and future historians. This was truly the election that the Tories lost.

Political recovery will be difficult, but not impossible. For hope and historical encouragement they must turn to, of all people, Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour Prime Minister. In 1924 the Tories ousted Labour and won a massive majority of 223 seats. At the subsequent poll — 1929 — Labour was revitalised and the Tories lost 159 constituencies. A transformation of that magnitude will be required to remove Tony Blair from power.





# The new House of Commons

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**Index**

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**A**

\*ABBOTT, Mrs D (Hackney North & Stoke Newington) Lab  
ADAMS, G (Belfast West) SF  
ADAMS, Mrs I (Paisley North) Lab  
AINGER, N R (Carmarthen West & Pembrokehire South) Lab  
AINSWORTH, R W (Coventry North East) Lab  
AINSWORTH, P (Surrey East) C  
ALLAN, R (Sheffield Hallam) LD  
\*ALLEN, G (Nottingham North) Lab  
AMESS, D A (Southend West) C  
ANCRA, M (Devizes) C  
ANDERSON, Mrs J (Rossendale & Darwen) Lab  
\*ANDERSON, D (Swansea East) Lab  
ARBUHNOT, J N (Hampshire North East) C  
ARMSTRONG, Miss H (Durham North West) Lab  
ASHDOWN, P (Neovill) LD  
ASHTON, J (Bassetlaw) Lab  
ATHERTON, Ms C (Falmouth & Camborne) Lab  
ATKINS, Ms C (Staffordshire Moorlands) Lab  
ATKINSON, D (Bournemouth East) Lab  
\*ATKINSON, P (Hexham) C  
AUSTIN-WALKER, J (Ereih & Thamesmead) Lab

**B**

BAKER, N (Lewes) LD  
BALDLY, A B (Banbury) C  
BALLARD, Mrs J (Taunton) LD  
BANKS, T L (West Ham) Lab  
\*BARNES, H (Derbyshire North East) Lab  
\*BARRON, K (Rother Valley) Lab  
\*BATTLE, J (Leeds West) Lab  
\*BAYLEY, H (York, City of) Lab  
BEARD, C N (Bexleyheath & Crayford) Lab  
BECKETT, Mrs M (Derby South) Lab  
BEGG, Ms M A (Aberdeen South) Lab  
BEGGS, R (Antrim East) UUP  
\*BEITH, A (Berwick-upon-Tweed) LD  
BELL, S (Middlesbrough) LD  
BELL, M (Tatton) Ind  
\*BENN, T (Cheshirefield) Lab  
BENNETT, A (Denton & Reddish) Lab  
BENTON, J (Bootle) Lab  
BERCOW, J S (Buckingham) Lab  
BERESFORD, Sir Paul (Mole Valley) C  
BERMINGHAM, G E (St Helens South) Lab  
BERRY, Dr R (Kingswood) Lab  
BEST, H (Leeds North West) Lab  
\*BETTS, C (Sheffield Attercliffe) Lab  
BLACKMAN, Ms E (Erewash) Lab  
BLAIR, T (Sedgefield) Lab  
BLEARS, Ms H A (Salford) Lab  
BLIZZARD, R (Waveney) Lab  
BLUNKETT, D (Sheffield Brightside) Lab  
BLUNT, C (Reigate) C  
BOATENG, P (Brent South) Lab  
BODY, Sir Richard (Boston & Skegness) C  
BOOTHROYD, Miss B (West Bromwich West) Speaker  
BORROW, D (Ribble South) Lab  
BOSWELL, T E (Daverly) C  
\*BOTTOMLEY, Mrs V (Surrey South West) C  
BOTTOMLEY, P J (Worthing West) C  
BRADLEY, K (Manchester Withington) Lab  
BRADLEY, P (Wrekin, The) Lab  
BRADSHAW, B (Exeter) Lab  
BRADY, G (Aldrinham & Sale West) C  
BRAKE, T (Carshalton and Wallington) LD  
BRAND, Dr P (Isle of Wight) LD  
BRAZIER, J (Canterbury) Lab  
BREED, C (Cornwall South East) LD  
BRINTON, Ms B (Peterborough) Lab  
BROOKE, P L (Cities of London & Westminster) C  
BROWN, R (Dumfries) Lab  
BROWN, G (Dunfermline East) Lab  
BROWN, N H (Newcastle upon Tyne East & Wallsend) Lab  
BROWNE, D (Kilmarnock & Loudoun) Lab  
BROWNING, Mrs A F (Tiverton & Honiton) C  
BRUCE, I (Dorset South) Lab  
BRUCE, M (Gordon) LD  
BUCK, Ms K (Regents Park & Kensington North) Lab  
BURDEN, R (Birmingham Northfield) Lab  
BURGON, C (Elmet) Lab  
BURNETT, J (Dorset West & Torridge) LD  
BURNS, S H M (Chelmsford West) LD  
BURSTOW, P (Sutton and Cheam) LD  
BUTLER, Ms C (Castle Point) Lab  
BUTTERFILL, J (Bournemouth West) Lab  
BYERS, S J (Tyneside North) Lab

**C**

CABLE, Dr V (Twickenham) LD  
CABORN, R (Sheffield Central) Lab  
\*CAMPBELL, R (Blyth Valley) Lab  
\*CAMPBELL, Mrs A (Cambridge) Lab  
\*CAMPBELL, M (Fife North East) Lab  
CAMPBELL, A (Tynemouth) Lab  
CAMPBELL-SAVOURS, D (Workington) Lab  
CANAVAN, D (Falkirk West) Lab  
CANN, J (Ipswich) Lab  
CAPLIN, I (Hove) Lab  
CASALE, R (Wimbledon) Lab  
CASH, W N P (Stone) C  
CATON, M (Gower) Lab  
CAWSEY, I (Brigg & Goole) Lab  
CHAPMAN, Sir Sydney (Chipping Barnet) C  
CHAPMAN, B (Wirral South) Lab  
CHAYTOR, D M (Bury North) Lab  
CHIDGEY, D (Eastleigh) LD  
CHISHOLM, M (Edinburgh North & Leith) Lab  
CHURCH, C R (Chichester) Lab  
CLARKE, M (Dagenham) Lab  
CLARKE, M (Barnsley West and Pinstone) Lab  
CLAPTON, J (Hertsmere) Lab  
CLARK, Ms L M (Edinburgh Pentlands) Lab  
CLARKE, P (Gillingham) Lab  
CLARK, T (Northampton South) Lab  
CLARK, Dr D (South Shields) Lab  
CLARK, A K M (Kensington & Chelsea) C  
CLARK, Dr M (Rayleigh) C  
CLARKE, E (Middlesbrough) Lab  
CLARKE, C (Norwich South) Lab  
\*CLARKE, K (Rushcliffe) Lab  
CLARKE, T (Coatbridge & Chryston) Lab  
CLELAND, D (Tyne Bridge) Lab  
CLIFTON-BROWN, G R (Coiswold) Lab  
CLYWD, Mrs A (Cynon Valley) Lab  
COLEMAN, V (Gillingham) Lab  
COFFEY, Ms A (Stockport) Lab  
COHEN, H M (Leyton & Wanstead) Lab  
COLEMAN, I (Hammersmith & Fulham) Lab  
COLLINS, T (Westmorland & Lonsdale) Lab  
COLMAN, A (Putney) Lab  
COLVIN, M K B (Romesey) Lab  
CONNARTY, M (Falkirk East) Lab  
COOK, R (Livingston) Lab  
COOK, F (Stockton North) Lab  
COOPER, Ms V (Pontefract & Castleford) Lab  
CORBETT, R (Birmingham Erdington) Lab  
\*CORBYN, J (Islington North) Lab  
CORMACK, Sir Patrick (Staffordshire South) C  
CORSTON, Ms J (Bristol East) Lab  
COTTER, B (Weston-Super-Mare) Lab  
COUSINS, J (Newcastle upon Tyne Central) Lab

**D**

DAFIS, C G (Ceredigion) PC  
DALVELL, T (Linlithgow) Lab  
DARLING, A (Edinburgh Central) Lab  
DARVILL, K (Upton) Lab  
DAVEY, Ms V (Bristol West) Lab  
DAVEY, E (Kington & Surbiton) LD  
DAVIDSON, I (Glasgow Pollok) Lab Co-op  
\*DAVIES, R (Caerphilly) Lab  
DAVIES, G (Croydon Central) Lab  
DAVIES, D (Llanelli) Lab  
DAVIES, J Q (Grantham & Stamford) C  
\*DAVIS, T (Birmingham Hodge Hill) Lab  
DAVIS, D (Haltemprice & Howden) C  
DAWSON, T (Lancaster & Wyre) C  
DAY, S (Cheadle) C  
DEAN, Ms J (Burton) Lab  
DENHAM, J (Southampton Itchen) Lab  
DEWAR, D C (Glasgow Anniesland) Lab  
DISMORE, A (Hendon) Lab  
DOBBIN, J (Heywood & Middleton) Lab Co-op  
DOBBSON, F (Holborn & St Pancras) Lab  
DONALDSON, J (Lagan Valley) UUP  
\*DONOHUE, B H (Cunningham South) Lab  
DORAN, F (Aberdeen Central) Lab  
DOORRELL, S I (Charnwood) Lab  
\*DOWD, J (Lewisham West) Lab  
DREW, D (Stroud) Lab Co-op  
DROWN, Ms J (Swindon South) C  
DUNCAN, A (Rutland & Melton) C  
DUNCAN SMITH, I (Chingford & Woodford Green) C  
DUNWOODY, Mrs G (Crewe & Nantwich) Lab

**E**

EAGLE, Ms M (Liverpool Garston) Lab  
\*EAGLE, Ms A (Walsley) Lab  
EDWARDS, H (Monmouth) Lab  
EFFORD, C (Eltham) Lab  
ELLMAN, Ms L (Liverpool Riverside) Lab Co-op  
EMERY, Sir Peter (Devon East) Lab  
ENNIS, J (Barnsley East & Mexborough) Lab  
ETHERINGTON, W (Sunderland North) Lab  
EVANS, N (Ribble Valley) C  
EWING, Mrs M (Moray) SNP

**F**

FABER, D (Westbury) C  
FABRICANT, M L D (Lichfield) C  
FALLON, M (Sevenoaks) C  
FATCHETT, D (Leeds Central) Lab  
FEARN, R (Southport) LD  
\*FIELD, F (Birkenhead) Lab  
\*FISHER, M (Stoke-on-Trent Central) Lab  
FITZPATRICK, J (Poplar & Canning Town) Lab  
FITZSIMONS, Ms L (Rochdale) Lab  
FLIGHT, H (Arunel & South Downs) C  
FLINT, Ms C (Don Valley) Lab  
\*FLYNN, P (Newport West) Lab  
FOLLETT, Ms B (Stevenage) Lab  
FORSYTH, C (Antrim South) UUP  
FOURTE, M E (Bromley & Chislehurst) C  
FOSTER, D M E (Bath) LD  
FOSTER, D (Bishop Auckland) Lab  
FOSTER, M (Hastings & Rye) Lab  
FOSTER, M (Worcester) Lab  
FOULKES, G (Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley) Lab Co-op  
\*FOWLER, Sir Norman (Sutton Coldfield) C  
FOX, Dr L (Woodspring) C  
FRASER, C J (Dorset Mid & Poole North) C  
FYFE, Ms M (Glasgow Maryhill) Lab

**G**

GALBRAITH, S (Strathkelvin & Bearsden) Lab  
\*GALE, R (Thanet North) Lab  
GALLOWAY, G (Glasgow Kelvin) Lab  
GAPES, M (Ilford South) Lab Co-op  
GARDINER, B (Brent North) Lab  
GARNIER, E (Harborough) Lab  
GEORGE, A (St Ives) LD  
\*GEORGE, B (Walsall South) Lab  
GERARD, N (Walthamstow) Lab  
GIBB, N (Bognor Regis & Littlehampton) C  
GIBSON, Dr I (Norwich North) Lab  
GILL, C (Ludlow) Lab  
GILLAN, Mrs C (Chesham & Amersham) C  
GILROY, Mrs L (Plymouth Sutton) Lab Co-op  
GORDAN, Dr N A (Greenock & Inverclyde) Lab  
GODSIF, R D (Birmingham Sparkbrook & Small Heath) Lab  
GOGGINS, P (Wythenshale & Sale East) Lab  
\*GOLDING, Mrs I (Newcastle-under-Lyme) Lab  
GOODLAD, A R (Eddisbury) Lab  
GORDON, Mrs E (Romford) Lab  
GORMAN, Mrs T (Billerica) Lab  
GORRIE, D (Edinburgh West) LD  
GRAHAM, T (Renfrewshire West) Lab  
\*GRANT, B (Totenham) Lab  
GRAY, J (Wiltshire North) Lab  
GREEN, D (Ashford) C  
GREENWAY, J (Ryedale) C  
GRIEVE, D (Beaconsfield) Lab  
\*GRIFFITHS, W (Bridgend) Lab  
GRIFFITHS, N (Edinburgh South) Lab  
GRIFFITHS, N (Reading East) Lab  
GROCCOTT, B (Telford) Lab  
GROOM, J (Selby) Lab  
GUMMER, J (Suffolk Coastal) Lab  
GUNNELL, W J (Morley & Rothwell) Lab

**H**

HAGUE, W (Richmond (Yorks)) Lab  
HAIN, P (Neath) Lab  
HALL, B (Bedford) Lab  
HALL, M (Croydon Vale) Lab  
HAMILTON, Sir Archibald (Epsom and Ewell) Lab  
HAMILTON, F (Leeds North East) Lab  
HAMMOND, P (Runnymede & Weybridge) C  
HANCOCK, M (Portsmouth South) LD  
HANSON, D (Delyn) Lab  
HARMAN, Ms H (Camberwell & Peckham) Lab  
HARRIS, Dr E (Oxford West & Abingdon) LD  
HARVEY, N (Devon North) LD  
HASELHURST, Sir Alan (Saffron Walden) LD  
HAWKINS, N J (Surrey Heath) C  
HAYES, J (South Holland & The Deepings) C  
HEAL, Mrs S L (Halesowen & Rowley Regis) Lab  
HEALD, O (Hertfordshire North East) C  
HEALEY, J (Wentworth) Lab  
HEATH, Sir Edward (Old Bexley & Sidcup) C  
HEATH, D (Somerton & Frome) LD

**I**

HEATHCOAT-AMORY, D (Wells) Lab  
HENDERSON, A (Harwich) Lab  
\*HENDERSON, D J (Newcastle upon Tyne North) Lab  
HEPBURN, S (Jarrow) Lab  
\*HEPPELL, J (Nottingham East) Lab  
HESELTINE, M (Henley) C  
HESFORD, S (Wirral West) Lab  
HEWITT, Ms P H (Leicester West) Lab  
HILL, K (Streatham) Lab  
HINCHLIFFE, D (Wakefield) Lab  
HODGE, Mrs M (Barking) Lab  
HOEY, Ms K (Vauxhall) Lab  
HOGG, D M (S

\*Denotes new M



## II

**Robathan, b July 17, 1951**  
ed for this year 1992 PPS to  
coat, Nat Heritage Minister  
1994-95, and previous  
vice-chair. C backbench  
ence: joint vice-chair, C  
m Ireland since 1994; all-  
enewable and sustainable  
group chair all-party

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ernheim and Fulham cll-	
erly, 1974-75; Coleridge	
1974-75; rejoined Arzoi	
1974-75; served in Gulf War	
in staff of POW force in	
Algeria, Iraq and Kuwait	
Royal Geographical Soc-	
ty of London, Ed-	
in Taylors, Northward;	
on, Oxford, RMA, Sandhurst,	
all Coll, Camberley	

<b>BURN</b>	
Life 73,658 (73,508)	*Votes
(C)	25,141 55.04
(C)	11,690 24.61
(LD)	4,990 10.51
W. (Ref)	1,892 3.98
ni	
ind, H	637 1.41
(Green)	671 1.34
ael-	606 1.28
W. M (RF)	506 1.07
W. (GSSP)	305 0.65
ni	
to Lab 9.73	14,451 30.43
to Lab 54 978 (74 75%) Lab	Turnout 65.01%
48.44%; C 20,606 37.38	
48.44%; C 20,606 37.38	

	Pool North & Wood	Pool South & Wood
From C		
1. J. H. D.H. (7,497)	28,051	52.19
2. M. H.D.H. (C)	19,105	35.55
3. D.	4,800	8.56
4. (H)	1,704	3.17
5. (H)	285	0.52

<b>Liberty</b>	8,946	18,654
Total	55,748	Turnout 71.67%
Valid	14,349	
Total Votes	59,954	(80.16%) : C
(Lib)	49,773	Lab 25,862
(C)	7,167	(11.95%), Other
(C)	Mag 2,276	(12.14%),
An Humble, 8 March 3.		
Lancashire county elect 1948.		
Christian		
Co-op Party, TGWU. Ed		
Lead Cos Party, Lancashire		

<b>POOL SCHOOL</b>		
from C		
Total	75,009	%Votes
G (Lab)	29,282	57.04
R (C)	17,668	34.41
LD (Lab)	4,262	8.55
<b>Liberty</b>	11,916	23.63
Total	51,340	Turnout 67.30%
Valid	11,165	
Total Votes	58,901	(78.53%) : C
(Lib)	44,073	Lab 25,563
(LD)	7,148	(12.14%), NLP 23
Mag	304	(0.57%),
March 28, Nov 28, 1953.		
This 1952, 1952, Editor of		
Today since 1948, former		
Editor and Editor New Socialist; OJ		
other: former public affairs		

The Elgin Heritage.  
 Elgin Soc. formed in 1979  
 in Brighton, then party  
 of 100, and chaired  
 by Mrs. J. G. G. G.  
 Fabians, Member, C.M.B.  
 of British Editors, Ed  
 of Elgin College, Ed  
 and Harvard Univ.

ON  
 64,599 (58,798) %Votes  
 m. (Lab) 27,535 59.96  
 P (LD) 10,939 23.80  
 6,046 13.17  
 (Ind) Lab 1,412 3.07  
 16,505 36.16  
 45,925 Turnout 70.98%  
 Lab 2,107  
 To Vote 517 (70.82%) Lab  
 1,985 (56.67%)  
 (20.86%), Lab Maj 1,393

William, 5 May 10, 1941,  
 1873, 1873, 1873, 1873,  
 Portland, Feb 1974,  
 engineer. Appointed  
 1987.  
 Commons, chairman's  
 member, 1987.  
 chair, computer sub-cttee,  
 procedure select ctee  
 1987, science and  
 1980-83, Chair, PIP party  
 1983-87, dep Shadow  
 Commons 1983-84, Lab

	61,761 (61.313)	%/Vot
R (Lab)	27,278	64.21
LD	9,540	22.46
B (C)	5,668	13.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,736</b>	<b>41.75</b>
42,482	80.25%	68.78%
LD 12,70		
201	(80.25%)	68.78%
18,633	LD 16,498	(33.53%)
5.88%;	Gm 470	(0.98%)
044	(16.35%)	

campbell, b Aug 14, 1942  
 born in Scotland when elected  
 in 1987. Member, select  
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 2751-2754

REGIS & CAMPION	
66,480 (85,567)	%Votes
(A)	20,537 44.22
(B)	13,216 28.46
(C)	11,153 24.01
(UK Ind)	1,537 3.31
	7,321 15.76
45,443	Turnout 89.88%
Lab 13,879	75.98% - C
Lib 43,989	100% (and 78%)
UK Ind 13,216	Other 1,474
ME 15,007	(30.14%)

a. b. Sept 3, 1960. Tax  
 and senior manager  
 of the new Mawell,  
 Rutherford by election  
 on Trent Central 1962.  
 C. C. social security  
 policy group. Child  
 Green and Sienpny C.  
 and trees, 1963-69.  
 group Merom Golan 1983.  
 Bank 1982-83, ed.  
 S. R. H. H. School,  
 Thornes House School,  
 Durham Univ











# ELECTION 97 RESULTS

DOVER			DURHAM, CITY OF		
Lab gain from C			Lab hold		
Electorate 68,669 (69,546)	%Votes		Electorate 89,340 (88,494)	%Votes	
Prasser, G (Lab)	29.53	54.49	*Stierberg, G (Lab)	31.102	63.30
+Shaw, D (C)	17.796	32.83	Chalk, R (C)	8.588	17.50
Carney, M (LD)	4.302	7.94	Martin, N (LD)	7.469	15.26
Anderson, S (Ref)	2,124	3.92	Robson, M (Ref)	1,723	3.51
Hyde, C (UK Ind)	443	0.82	Kember, P (NLP)	213	0.43
Lab Majority	11,730	21.68	Lab Majority	22,504	45.80

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**DUDLEY SOUTH**  
**Lab hold**  
 Electorate 78,141 (68,927) 29.6%  
 Pearson, I (P) (Lab) 11,731 58.9%  
 Cresswell, C (C) 14,467 29.4%  
 Burt, C (L) 5,214 10.8%  
 Birch, R (Rep) 1,467 3.0%  
**Lab Majority 13,027 27.9%**  
 Total Vote 47,902 Turnout 71.78%  
 Electing 22 to 113.03  
 Total Vote 53,207 (78.50%) 51  
 52.05 (47.03%) C, 22,296 (41.90%)  
 Lab, 5,886 (11.05%) P, May Mr 2,729  
 15.13%.

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 Dudley W in 1994 by-election.  
 Member, deregulation select com.  
 1977-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84  
 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91  
 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95  
 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99  
 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03  
 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07  
 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11  
 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15  
 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19  
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 2319-2320, 232

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<b>DURHAM NORTH</b>		
Lab hold		
Electors 67,891 (89.53)	70.26	
Radcliffe, G (Lab)	33,302	70.26
Moore, B (L)	5,843	12.50
Moore, B (L)	5,225	11.08
Putney, J (Ref)	1,958	4.15
Lab Majority	26,299	55.78
Total Vote 47,168	Turnout 60.48	
Swing C to Lab 7.85		
Swing C to Lab 50,739 (73.30%)		
34,074 (59.86%); C 12,610 (24.85%);		
Lab 7,155 (12.28%); Lab Maj 17,764		
Radcliffe, Radcl. 4 Oct. 4. 1936. Elected		
for the seat 1933; MP for Chester-		
ton 1935-1947; contested		
Chilphenham 1954 and 1960.		
Chiffrin, chief public service select		
committee 1947-53; chief		
service select ect, 1957-65; chief		
service select ect, 1965-73; in shadow		
1963-87, when in Shadow Cabinet.		
Lab spokesman on employment		
1966-87 of Northern group of Lab		
MPs; chief PLP employment		
group, 1975-81. Chair, European		
Committee, 1976-85; British		
Assoc for Central and Eastern		
Europe, 1976-85; Chair, C of S		
Winstanley Coll. Oxford, 1944-65		
Winstanley Coll. Magdalen, Coll.		
<b>DURHAM SOUTH</b>		
Lab hold		
Electors 67,891 (89.53)	70.26	
Radcliffe, G (Lab)	33,302	70.26
Moore, B (L)	5,843	12.50
Moore, B (L)	5,225	11.08
Putney, J (Ref)	1,958	4.15
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Radcliffe, Radcl. 4 Oct. 4. 1936. Elected		
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ton 1935-1947; contested		
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Chiffrin, chief public service select		
committee 1947-53; chief		
service select ect, 1957-65; chief		
service select ect, 1965-73; in shadow		
1963-87, when in Shadow Cabinet.		
Lab spokesman on employment		
1966-87 of Northern group of Lab		
MPs; chief PLP employment		
group, 1975-81. Chair, European		
Committee, 1976-85; British		
Assoc for Central and Eastern		
Europe, 1976-85; Chair, C of S		
Winstanley Coll. Oxford, 1944-65		
Winstanley Coll. Magdalen, Coll.		
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committee 1947-53; chief		
service select ect, 1957-65; chief		
service select ect, 1965-73; in shadow		
1963-87, when in Shadow Cabinet.		
Lab spokesman on employment		
1966-87 of Northern group of Lab		
MPs; chief PLP employment		
group, 1975-81. Chair, European		
Committee, 1976-85; British		
Assoc for Central and Eastern		
Europe, 1976-85; Chair, C of S		
Winstanley Coll. Oxford, 1944-65		
Winstanley Coll. Magdalen, Coll.		
<b>DURHAM SOUTH</b>		
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for the seat 1933; MP for Chester-		
ton 1935-1947; contested		
Chilphenham 1954 and 1960.		
Chiffrin, chief public service select		
committee 1947-53; chief		
service select ect, 1957-65; chief		
service select ect, 1965-73; in shadow		
1963-87, when in Shadow Cabinet.		
Lab spokesman on employment		
1966-87 of Northern group of Lab		
MPs; chief PLP employment		
group, 1975-81. Chair, European		
Committee, 1976-85; British		
Assoc for Central and Eastern		
Europe, 1976-85; Chair, C of S		

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Science and Tech. vice-chair, PIP  
 (Lab) 25,611 (22.0%)  
 Chairman, N.C. 18,052 20.7  
 (Lab) 12,003 12.03  
 (A) 13,94 1.34  
 Fluoride, J (Rd) 718 1.73  
 Dooley, V (Snp) 1,000 1.00  
 (Lab) 1,000 1.00  
 (Lab) 17,424 19.01  
 Total Votes 114,587  
 Winning 68.19%  
 1992 Cto Lab 48,126 (41.2%)  
 Lab 21,945 (18.9%)  
 LD 15,555 (13.5%)  
 LD 12,598 (10.9%)  
 Lab Mps 5,830 (5.0%)  
 John Assin-Vaiker. popularly  
 known as "Jaws". b Aug 21, 1944.  
 MP for Woolwich 1992-97; re-  
 elected 1997-2001. Former  
 health select commit. 1994-97. Joint  
 author of 1994-97. Joint author of  
 Lab Mps, 1992-97; chair, all-party  
 osteoporosis group, 1994-97.  
 95: member, exec comm. British  
 Society for Bone Mineral Research  
 group; sec. Western Sahara group.  
 1996-97. Former sec agent  
 (1992-97). Chairman of the  
 council 1970-94. Mayor 1987-88;  
 council leader 1982-87. Vice-chair,  
 London Council 1977. London  
 Policy Unit 1986-88. Dir. London  
 Council's Charitable Trusts and  
 Trusts. Greenwich Mind and  
 Adolescent and Children's Trust  
 1991-92. Chairman of the  
 1991-92. Nat. chair, Assoc.  
 of Community Health Councils.  
 1991-92. Chairman of the  
 London Ecology Unit. 1990-92.  
 London Emergency Planning  
 Unit 1990-92. Chairman of the  
 British Youth Council 1969-71.

<p><b>SHER &amp; WALTON</b>  <b>Child</b>          Electorate 72,382 (71,598)    -49.84          Taylor, I (C) (C)    28,747    -49.84          Gifford, C (L)    12,217    -50.71          Gifford, G (LD)    10,937    20.36          Cruickshank, A (Ref)    2,953    20.41          Morgan, B (UK Ind)    589    2.04          Day, S (Green)    202    0.57  <b>Total</b>    <b>14,528</b>    <b>27.02</b></p>		<p>unpaid trustee and dir.          Community Service Volunteers          trustee of the Prince          of Wales Foundation          Scottish Office, 1962-67, Member,          Swann Ctee 1979-84, Editor, Small          Business 1980-81, Editor, <i>East</i>          Edinburgh Univ, 1967-74, Ed <i>East</i>          Merton Coll, Oxford.</p>
<p><b>FELTHAM &amp; HESTON</b>          Local Electorate 10,088 (93,290)    -59.71          Brown, A (Lab Co-op)    27,836    -59.71          Ground, P (C)    12,553    26.55          Pelling, C (LD)    4,284    9.15          Pelling, C (LD)    1,682    3.61          Church, R (BNP)    682    1.48          Fawcett, D (NLP)    177    0.38  <b>Total</b>    <b>50,000</b>    <b>15.273</b>    <b>32.76</b></p>		
<p><b>Total Votes 45,821</b>    <b>Turnout 55.58%</b>          Swing to C 16.07% to 16.07%          Lab Co-op 24,924 (45.51%)    C 22,894</p>		

Chair, C Group for Europe, 1985-88; and C Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, 1988-91; Vice-Chair, assoc. of C clubs, 1959-68; Ex-corporate finance adviser, 1968-70; Director, C and economic and party adviser, Chair, C, 1970-71; C, 1971-72; C, 1972-73; C, 1973-74; C, 1974-75; C, 1975-76; C, 1976-77; C, 1977-78; C, 1978-79; C, 1979-80; C, 1980-81; C, 1981-82; C, 1982-83; C, 1983-84; C, 1984-85; C, 1985-86; C, 1986-87; C, 1987-88; C, 1988-89; C, 1989-90; C, 1990-91; C, 1991-92; C, 1992-93; C, 1993-94; C, 1994-95; C, 1995-96; C, 1996-97; C, 1997-98; C, 1998-99; C, 1999-00; C, 2000-01; C, 2001-02; C, 2002-03; C, 2003-04; C, 2004-05; C, 2005-06; C, 2006-07; C, 2007-08; C, 2008-09; C, 2009-10; C, 2010-11; C, 2011-12; C, 2012-13; C, 2013-14; C, 2014-15; C, 2015-16; C, 2016-17; C, 2017-18; C, 2018-19; C, 2019-20; C, 2020-21; C, 2021-22; C, 2022-23; C, 2023-24; C, 2024-25; C, 2025-26; C, 2026-27; C, 2027-28; C, 2028-29; C, 2029-30; C, 2030-31; C, 2031-32; C, 2032-33; C, 2033-34; C, 2034-35; C, 2035-36; C, 2036-37; C, 2037-38; C, 2038-39; C, 2039-40; C, 2040-41; C, 2041-42; C, 2042-43; C, 2043-44; C, 2044-45; C, 2045-46; C, 2046-47; C, 2047-48; C, 2048-49; C, 2049-50; C, 2050-51; C, 2051-52; C, 2052-53; C, 2053-54; C, 2054-55; C, 2055-56; C, 2056-57; C, 2057-58; C, 2058-59; C, 2059-60; C, 2060-61; C, 2061-62; C, 2062-63; C, 2063-64; C, 2064-65; C, 2065-66; C, 2066-67; C, 2067-68; C, 2068-69; C, 2069-70; C, 2070-71; C, 2071-72; C, 2072-73; C, 2073-74; C, 2074-75; C, 2075-76; C, 2076-77; C, 2077-78; C, 2078-79; C, 2079-80; C, 2080-81; C, 2081-82; C, 2082-83; C, 2083-84; C, 2084-85; C, 2085-86; C, 2086-87; C, 2087-88; C, 2088-89; C, 2089-90; C, 2090-91; C, 2091-92; C, 2092-93; C, 2093-94; C, 2094-95; C, 2095-96; C, 2096-97; C, 2097-98; C, 2098-99; C, 2099-00; C, 2100-01; C, 2101-02; C, 2102-03; C, 2103-04; C, 2104-05; C, 2105-06; C, 2106-07; C, 2107-08; C, 2108-09; C, 2109-10; C, 2110-11; C, 2111-12; C, 2112-13; C, 2113-14; C, 2114-15; C, 2115-16; C, 2116-17; C, 2117-18; C, 2118-19; C, 2119-20; C, 2120-21; C, 2121-22; C, 2122-23; C, 2123-24; C, 2124-25; C, 2125-26; C, 2126-27; C, 2127-28; C, 2128-29; C, 2129-30; C, 2130-31; C, 2131-32; C, 2132-33; C, 2133-34; C, 2134-35; C, 2135-36; C, 2136-37; C, 2137-38; C, 2138-39; C, 2139-40; C, 2140-41; C, 2141-42; C, 2142-43; C, 2143-44; C, 2144-45; C, 2145-46; C, 2146-47; C, 2147-48; C, 2148-49; C, 2149-50; C, 2150-51; C, 2151-52; C, 2152-53; C, 2153-54; C, 2154-55; C, 2155-56; C, 2156-57; C, 2157-58; C, 2158-59; C, 2159-60; C, 2160-61; C, 2161-62; C, 2162-63; C, 2163-64; C, 2164-65; C, 2165-66; C, 2166-67; C, 2167-68; C, 2168-69; C, 2169-70; C, 2170-71; C, 2171-72; C, 2172-73; C, 2173-74; C, 2174-75; C, 2175-76; C, 2176-77; C, 2177-78; C, 2178-79; C, 2179-80; C, 2180-81; C, 2181-82; C, 2182-83; C, 2183-84; C, 2184-85; C, 2185-86; C, 2186-87; C, 2187-88; C, 2188-89; C, 2189-90; C, 2190-91; C, 2191-92; C, 2192-93; C, 2193-94; C, 2194-95; C, 2195-96; C, 2196-97; C, 2197-98; C, 2198-99; C, 2199-00; C, 2200-01; C, 2201-02; C, 2202-03; C, 2203-04; C, 2204-05; C, 2205-06; C, 2206-07; C, 2207-08; C, 2208-09; C, 2209-10; C, 2210-11; C, 2211-12; C, 2212-13; C, 2213-14; C, 2214-15; C, 2215-16; C, 2216-17; C, 2217-18; C, 2218-19; C, 2219-20; C, 2220-21; C, 2221-22; C, 2222-23; C, 2223-24; C, 2224-25; C, 2225-26; C, 2226-27; C, 2227-28; C, 2228-29; C, 2229-30; C, 2230-31; C, 2231-32; C, 2232-33; C, 2233-34; C, 2234-35; C, 2235-36; C, 2236-37; C, 2237-38; C, 2238-39; C, 2239-40; C, 2240-41; C, 2241-42; C, 2242-43; C, 2243-44; C, 2244-45; C, 2245-46; C, 2246-47; C, 2247-48; C, 2248-49; C, 2249-50; C, 2250-51; C, 2251-52; C, 2252-53; C, 2253-54; C, 2254-55; C, 2255-56; C, 2256-57; C, 2257-58; C, 2258-59; C, 2259-60; C, 2260-61; C, 2261-62; C, 2262-63; C, 2263-64; C, 2264-65; C, 2265-66; C, 2266-67; C, 2267-68; C, 2268-69; C, 2269-70; C, 2270-71; C, 2271-72; C, 2272-73; C, 2273-74; C, 2274-75; C, 2275-76; C, 2276-77; C, 2277-78; C, 2278-79; C, 2279-80; C, 2280-81; C, 2281-82; C, 2282-83; C, 2283-84; C, 2284-85; C, 2285-86; C, 2286-87; C, 2287-88; C, 2288-89; C, 2289-90; C, 2290-91; C, 2291-92; C, 2292-93; C, 2293-94; C, 2294-95; C, 2295-96; C, 2296-97; C, 2297-98; C, 2298-99; C, 2299-00; C, 2300-01; C, 2301-02; C, 2302-03; C, 2303-04; C, 2304-05; C, 2305-06; C, 2306-07; C, 2307-08; C, 2308-09; C, 2309-10; C, 2310-11; C, 2311-12; C, 2312-13; C, 2313-14; C, 2314-15; C, 2315-16; C, 2316-17; C, 2317-18; C, 2318-19; C, 2319-20; C, 2320-21; C, 2321-22; C, 2322-23; C, 2323-24; C, 2324-25; C, 2325-26; C, 2326-27; C, 2327-28; C, 2328-29; C, 2329-30; C, 2330-31; C, 2331-32; C, 2332-33; C, 2333-34; C,
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FOLKESTONE & MYTHIE	
<b>C Hold</b>	
Wenger, 71.153 (84.414)	84/105
+Howard, M (C)	20.313 28.03
Laws, D (LD)	13.981 26.06
Doherty, P (UK)	12.989 24.86
Wenger, 69.848 (84.414)	84/105
Baker, J (UK Ind)	3.778 4.78
Segal, E (SCS)	1.802 3.05
Saint, R (CPS)	0.98 0.13
<b>Total Majority</b>	<b>6,332 12,272</b>
<b>C Hold</b>	
Cole, 52.580	Turnout 73.15%
Wenger, 47.417 (52.580)	
1892: Total Majority 52,432 (81.40%) - C	
27,435 (52.32%); LD 18,527 (36.32%) - C	
Bk 6,547 (12.1%); NLP 1,216 (2.23%);	
LD 1,698 (3.16%)	
Michael Howard, 8 July 7, 1941.	
QC Home Secretary 1993-97.	
Electd 1983; contested Liverpool	
1987; 1992; 1997. 1992-97: Sec of	
State for Environment 1992-93; Sec	
of State for Employment 1993-97.	
Minister of State for Europe 1987;	
with responsibilities for local gov.	
and the environment. 1997-98:	
Min for Housing and	
Planning, Min for Corporate and	
Community Affairs, and Min for	
Under Sec of State for Trade and	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

**MATHIAS HEAD EAST & WASHINGTON WEST**  
Lab hold

Quinn, G. (Lub)	61,114	67,822	%/Vote
Turnout	31,047	72,930	
Turnout, J. (Lub)	6,099	14,115	
Turnout, A. (Lub)	10,778	14,115	
Turnout, L. (Lub)	1,315	305	
Lab Majority	24,950	57,971	

Total Vote 43,081 Turnout 67.19%  
Winning C to Lab 13.85  
1992: Total Vote 48,947 (77.93%) Lab 25,087 (51.22%) C 18,391 (38.22%) Lab 6,475 (12.76%) Lab Maj 14,700 (29.22%)

**State's Joyce Kilmer, B Nov 26, 1887**  
1907-1910: Secy for Cattolism 1917-1927: Secy for Tyne and West 1929-1939: Speaker of House 1940-1949: Speaker on employment 1950-1959: Secy and industry 1960-1969: Secy and industry 1970-1979: Secy and industry 1980-1989: Secy and industry 1990-1999: Secy and industry 2000-2009: Secy and industry 2010-2019: Secy and industry 2020-2029: Secy and industry 2030-2039: Secy and industry 2040-2049: Secy and industry 2050-2059: Secy and industry 2060-2069: Secy and industry 2070-2079: Secy and industry 2080-2089: Secy and industry 2090-2099: Secy and industry 2100-2109: Secy and industry 2110-2119: Secy and industry 2120-2129: Secy and industry 2130-2139: Secy and industry 2140-2149: Secy and industry 2150-2159: Secy and industry 2160-2169: Secy and industry 2170-2179: Secy and industry 2180-2189: Secy and industry 2190-2199: Secy and industry 2200-2209: Secy and industry 2210-2219: Secy and industry 2220-2229: Secy and industry 2230-2239: Secy and industry 2240-2249: Secy and industry 2250-2259: Secy and industry 2260-2269: Secy and industry 2270-2279: Secy and industry 2280-2289: Secy and industry 2290-2299: Secy and industry 2300-2309: Secy and industry 2310-2319: Secy and industry 2320-2329: Secy and industry 2330-2339: Secy and industry 2340-2349: Secy and industry 2350-2359: Secy and industry 2360-2369: Secy and industry 2370-2379: Secy and industry 2380-2389: Secy and industry 2390-2399: Secy and industry 2400-2409: Secy and industry 2410-2419: Secy and industry 2420-2429: Secy and industry 2430-2439: Secy and industry 2440-2449: Secy and industry 2450-2459: Secy and industry 2460-2469: Secy and industry 2470-2479: Secy and industry 2480-2489: Secy and industry 2490-2499: Secy and industry 2500-2509: Secy and industry 2510-2519: Secy and industry 2520-2529: Secy and industry 2530-2539: Secy and industry 2540-2549: Secy and industry 2550-2559: Secy and industry 2560-2569: Secy and industry 2570-2579: Secy and industry 2580-2589: Secy and industry 2590-2599: Secy and industry 2600-2609: Secy and industry 2610-2619: Secy and industry 2620-2629: Secy and industry 2630-2639: Secy and industry 2640-2649: Secy and industry 2650-2659: Secy and industry 2660-2669: Secy and industry 2670-2679: Secy and industry 2680-2689: Secy and industry 2690-2699: Secy and industry 2700-2709: Secy and industry 2710-2719: Secy and industry 2720-2729: Secy and industry 2730-2739: Secy and industry 2740-2749: Secy and industry 2750-2759: Secy and industry 2760-2769: Secy and industry 2770-2779: Secy and industry 2780-2789: Secy and industry 2790-2799: Secy and industry 2800-2809: Secy and industry 2810-2819: Secy and industry 2820-2829: Secy and industry 2830-2839: Secy and industry 2840-2849: Secy and industry 2850-2859: Secy and industry 2860-2869: Secy and industry 2870-2879: Secy and industry 2880-2889: Secy and industry 2890-2899: Secy and industry 2900-2909: Secy and industry 2910-2919: Secy and industry 2920-2929: Secy and industry 2930-2939: Secy and industry 2940-2949: Secy and industry 2950-2959: Secy and industry 2960-2969: Secy and industry 2970-2979: Secy and industry 2980-2989: Secy and industry 2990-2999: Secy and industry 3000-3009: Secy and industry 3010-3019: Secy and industry 3020-3029: Secy and industry 3030-3039: Secy and industry 3040-3049: Secy and industry 3050-3059: Secy and industry 3060-3069: Secy and industry 3070-3079: Secy and industry 3080-3089: Secy and industry 3090-3099: Secy and industry 3100-3109: Secy and industry 3110-3119: Secy and industry 3120-3129: Secy and industry 3130-3139: Secy and industry 3140-3149: Secy and industry 3150-3159: Secy and industry 3160-3169: Secy and industry 3170-3179: Secy and industry 3180-3189: Secy and industry 3190-3199: Secy and industry 3200-3209: Secy and industry 3210-3219: Secy and industry 3220-3229: Secy and industry 3230-3239: Secy and industry 3240-3249: Secy and industry 3250-3259: Secy and industry 3260-3269: Secy and industry 3270-3279: Secy and industry 3280-3289: Secy and industry 3290-3299: Secy and industry 3300-3309: Secy and industry 3310-3319: Secy and industry 3320-3329: Secy and industry 3330-3339: Secy and industry 3340-3349: Secy and industry 3350-3359: Secy and industry 3360-3369: Secy and industry 3370-3379: Secy and industry 3380-3389: Secy and industry 3390-3399: Secy and industry 3400-3409: Secy and industry 3410-3419: Secy and industry 3420-3429: Secy and industry 3430-3439: Secy and industry 3440-3449: Secy and industry 3450-3459: Secy and industry 3460-3469: Secy and industry 3470-3479: Secy and industry 3480-3489: Secy and industry 3490-3499: Secy and industry 3500-3509: Secy and industry 3510-3519: Secy and industry 3520-3529: Secy and industry 3530-3539: Secy and industry 3540-3549: Secy and industry 3550-3559: Secy and industry 3560-3569: Secy and industry 3570-3579: Secy and industry 3580-3589: Secy and industry 3590-3599: Secy and industry 3600-3609: Secy and industry 3610-3619: Secy and industry 3620-3629: Secy and industry 3630-3639: Secy and industry 3640-3649: Secy and industry 3650-3659: Secy and industry 3660-3669: Secy and industry 3670-3679: Secy and industry 3680-3689: Secy and industry 3690-3699: Secy and industry 3700-3709: Secy and industry 3710-3719: Secy and industry 3720-3729: Secy and industry 3730-3739: Secy and industry 3740-3749: Secy and industry 3750-3759: Secy and industry 3760-3769: Secy and industry 3770-3779: Secy and industry 3780-3789: Secy and industry 3790-3799: Secy and industry 3800-3809: Secy and industry 3810-3819: Secy and industry 3820-3829: Secy and industry 3830-3839: Secy and industry 3840-3849: Secy and industry 3850-3859: Secy and industry 3860-3869: Secy and industry 3870-3879: Secy and industry 3880-3889: Secy and industry 3890-3899: Secy and industry 3900-3909: Secy and industry 3910-3919: Secy and industry 3920-3929: Secy and industry 3930-3939: Secy and industry 3940-3949: Secy and industry 3950-3959: Secy and industry 3960-3969: Secy and industry 3970-3979: Secy and industry 3980-3989: Secy and industry 3990-3999: Secy and industry 4000-4009: Secy and industry 4010-4019: Secy and industry 4020-4029: Secy and industry 4030-4039: Secy and industry 4040-4049: Secy and industry 4050-4059: Secy and industry 4060-4069: Secy and industry 4070-4079: Secy and industry 4080-4089: Secy and industry 4090-4099: Secy and industry 4100-4109: Secy and industry 4110-4119: Secy and industry 4120-4129: Secy and industry 4130-4139: Secy and industry 4140-4149: Secy and industry 4150-4159: Secy and industry 4160-4169: Secy and industry 4170-4179: Secy and industry 4180-4189: Secy and industry 4190-4199: Secy and industry 4200-4209: Secy and industry 4210-4219: Secy and industry 4220-4229: Secy and industry 4230-4239: Secy and industry 4240-4249: Secy and industry 4250-4259: Secy and industry 4260-4269: Secy and industry 4270-4279: Secy and industry 4280-4289: Secy and industry 4290-4299: Secy and industry 4300-4309: Secy and industry 4310-4319: Secy and industry 4320-4329: Secy and industry 4330-4339: Secy and industry 4340-4349: Secy and industry 4350-4359: Secy and industry 4

Chair, all-party social science and policy groups; European Group on the Environment; British-American Researcher.	Group of Lab MPs, 1986-90.
Chair, Lab Party, 1980-82; lecturer in French, Bath Univ., 1972-76; and in French and English, Bath Univ., 1976-79.	1969-71; and 1973-77; presenter, BBC's <i>World Affairs</i> series, 1972-73.
1981-82; Fellow, Royal Society, 1981; Hon. Fellow, University of New England, 1980-82.	Fellow, Ind. and Party Trust, 1982-83.
Undersecretary, 1982-85; Hon. Secretary, Newcastle and London Unions, LSE.	1963-67; Member, UN; sponsored by GMB.

<b>EDLING</b>	<b>GREAT YARMOUTH</b>
Lab gain from C	Lab gain from C
Electorate 68,820 (68,283)	Electorate 68,820 (68,283)
Majority 12,564	Majority 12,564
Turnout 75.80%	Turnout 75.80%
1982: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1982: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
1987: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1987: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
1992: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1992: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
1997: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1997: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
1998: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1998: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
1999: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	1999: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2000: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2000: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2001: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2001: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2002: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2002: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2003: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2003: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2004: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2004: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2005: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2005: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2006: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2006: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2007: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2007: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2008: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2008: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2009: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2009: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2010: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2010: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2011: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2011: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2012: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2012: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2013: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2013: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2014: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2014: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2015: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2015: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2016: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2016: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)
2017: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L 2,006 (2.95%)	2017: Lab 53,110 (77.07%); C 25,098 (36.94%); NP 18,154 (26.44%); L

[illegible]

Lab Majority	2,535	0.00%
Lab Majority (NLP)	2,298	14.28%
Lab Majority	8,299	74.66%
Lab Majority 57,514	Turnout 73.61%	
Lab Majority 11,118		
Lab Majority 12,102 (61.12%)		
Lab Majority 45,539%; Lab 22,387		
Lab Majority 12,109 (61.55%)		
Lab Majority 67,713		
Lab Majority 355 Kingham, 17 May 4, 1963		
Lab Majority official contested		
Lab Majority 11 Euro		
Lab Majority 3 for Girls; 1963		
Lab Majority East: East Anglia Univ.		

Lab Majority	2,535	0.00%
Lab Majority 66,830 (69,850)		
Lab Majority 21,095	43.68%	
Lab Majority 14,827	30.86%	
Lab Majority 19,890		
Lab Majority 2,538	5.25%	
Lab Majority 426	0.88%	
Lab Majority 6,258	12.92%	
Lab Majority 1,935	4.03%	
Lab Majority 15,830 (77.55%)		
Lab Majority 68,140; Lab 14,770 (27.05%)		
Lab Majority 7,275 (13.87%); Pensioners 332		
Lab Majority 13,618 (30.51%)		

Lab Majority 4,835	Turnout 72.29%	
Lab Majority 15,830		
Lab Majority 53,477 (75.55%)		
Lab Majority 68,140; Lab 14,770 (27.05%)		
Lab Majority 7,275 (13.87%); Pensioners 332		
Lab Majority 13,618 (30.51%)		

Lab Majority 4,835	Turnout 72.29%	
Lab Majority 15,830		
Lab Majority 53,477 (75.55%)		
Lab Majority 68,140; Lab 14,770 (27.05%)		
Lab Majority 7,275 (13.87%); Pensioners 332		
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Lab Majority 4,835	Turnout 72.29%	
Lab Majority 15,830		
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Lab Majority 68,140; Lab 14,770 (27.05%)		
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Lab Majority 15,830		
Lab Majority 53,477 (75.55%)		
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Lab Majority 15,830		
Lab Majority 53,477 (75.55%)		
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Lab Majority 4,835	Turnout 72.29%	
Lab Majority 15,830		
Lab Majority 53,477 (75.55%)		
Lab Majority 68,140; Lab 14,770 (27.05%)		
Lab Majority 7,275		

1954-60 Campaign for Defenceless  
 Military Disarmament, 1964-  
 1968 Campaign without  
 1968-84 Member, management  
 committee, RNLB Dr (captain), Warrior  
 (captain), 1984-85, 1986-87  
 and Trinity Hall, Cambridge.  
 (1985-86)

**PANTHAM & STAMFORD**  
 Ltd  
 Directors 72,310 (£7,428) %Vote  
 1970-71 22,672 42.80  
 1971-72 19,727 35.92  
 1972-73 18,612 34.48  
 1973-74 17,011 31.24  
 1974-75 15,511 28.59  
 1975-76 14,011 25.92  
 1976-77 12,511 23.25  
 1977-78 11,011 20.58  
 1978-79 9,511 17.91  
 1979-80 8,011 15.24  
 1980-81 6,511 12.57  
 1981-82 5,011 9.90  
 1982-83 3,511 7.23  
 1983-84 2,011 4.56  
 1984-85 556 1.05  
 1985-86 431 0.81  
 1986-87 306 0.59  
 1987-88 181 0.34  
 1988-89 56 0.11  
 1989-90 31 0.06  
 1990-91 6 0.01  
 1991-92 1 0.00  
 1992-93 0 0.00  
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 2171-72 0 0.00

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains.



مكتبة من الأصول

في الأصل

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**POPULAR & CANNING TOWN**

**Lab hold**

Candidate	Votes	%Votes
William North (Liberal)	672 (82.19%)	
Fitzpatrick, J (Lab)	24,807	63.17
Zinnheberg, B (C)	5,892	15.00
Ludlow, J (Lab)	4,772	10.37
Wright, R (BNP)	2,845	7.26
James, I (Ref)	1,091	2.78
Joseph, J (Scott Lab)	557	1.42

**Abs Majority**      **18,915 48.17**

Total Votes 30,268      Turnout 58.46%

Lab 19,352    Tot 58.97%    Lib 5,892    Tot 18.46%  
Tot 10,935 (51.24%)    C 10,517 (28.74%)  
D 7,986 (24.95%)    Ref 1,091    Tot 3.27%  
Lab 16.47%, Lib 16.40%, BN 2.50%, C 16.25%, Ref 3.27%

John Fitzpatrick, b April 4, 1952  
Fitzgerald, Chair, Greater London  
Council Party, Lib., Member, Amnesty  
International, National Council,  
Labour Party, ex, FBUI, Ed Holywood  
Mentor School, Glasgow.

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1973-77. Shop steward and union  
ovenor since 1979. Ed Southsea  
Modern. Paulsgrove Modern.

17.4.97



*"It's OK. I've just been with friends"*

**PORTSMOUTH SOUTH**

D gain from 1997

Delectable 80,514 (77.258)	%Votes
L Hancock, M (LD)	20,421 29.50
L Martin, D (C)	16,094 23.13
L Sumett, A (Lab)	13,086 21.35
L Grim, C (Ref)	1,629 3.15
L Thompson, J (Lib)	184 0.38
L Evans, J I (UK ind)	141 0.27
L Wend, W (INLP)	140 0.27
D Majority	4,327 8.37
Total Vote 51,895	Turnout 64.21%

1952: Total Vote 53,651 (69.44%)  
 1954: Total 22,798 (42.49%), LD 22,556 (42.04%)  
 1956: Total 7,857 (14.64%), MC 349 (6.86%)  
 1958: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1960: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1962: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1964: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1966: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1968: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1970: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1972: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1974: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1976: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1978: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1980: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1982: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1984: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1986: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1988: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1990: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1992: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1994: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1996: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 1998: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2000: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2002: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2004: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2006: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2008: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2010: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2012: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2014: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2016: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2018: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)  
 2020: Total 10,473 (19.74%), C Maj 242 (0.45%)

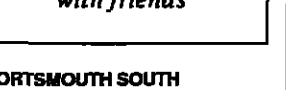
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to May 11, 1968 (20 yrs.).	
Dr. J. Andrew Wilson, B. Jan 1935.	
Selected for this seat 1987: M. P.	
January 5, 1979: M. P. Feb 1974-79:	
Unopposed: Woolwich 1983.	
Member, Soc. Psy. NEC. 1982-87.	
Member, President of Udaya (1982-1991) sponsored by union in 1982.	
Member, select committee 1974-80.	
Unopposed: Pills panel, 1992-1993.	
Chair, P.L.P. health and personal services committee, 1988-90, and P.L.P. health and personal services committee, 1987-89.	
Chair, 1987-89: vice-chair, P.L.P. social security committee, 1989-90. Former	
non-ordained typist. Member, select committee, 1980-82, on the family	
1976-78. Ed. Rutherford HS.	
<b>JUDSEY</b>	
born gain from C.	
1987: 70,822 (72,078)	%Votes

uswell, P (Lab)	25,370	48.11
one, P W (C)	19,163	36.34
rown, J (LD)	7,375	13.99
mbrose, D (Ref)	823	1.56
<b>Lab Majority</b>	<b>6,207</b>	<b>11.77</b>
Total Vote 52,731	Turnout 74.35%	
aving C to Lab 13.18		
992: Total Vote 57,381 (79.61%) - C		
0,087 (43.69%); Lab 18,685		
9.08%); LD 15,153 (26.41%); Gr		
16 (0.81%); C Maj 8,372 (14.59%).		

4,163 (7.95%); Other 1,385  
 6.64%); Lab May 3,814 (7.29%).  
 is Karen Buck, at Aug 30, 1958.  
 Labour Party Campaign  
 Implementation (Co-ordinators)  
 and acting Labour director of  
 communications. 1995.  
 Westminster City c1r 1990- Chair.  
 Westminster Objectors Trust.  
 board member Inner city  
 regeneration project and EC urban  
 funding project. Chair,  
 Westminster North CLP 1988-90.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The *Agrobacterium* strains were grown in the YEA medium for 24 h at 28 °C. The cell concentration of the strains was adjusted to 1.0 × 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml. The cell suspension was mixed with the plant tissue and the transformation efficiency was determined. The results were expressed as the mean ± SD of three independent experiments. The asterisks indicate the significant difference between the strains at the same concentration of the cell suspension.

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14-00000



## XIII

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HPE Central			
Field			
	Winnings	\$5,315 (\$7,702)	%Votes
+McLach, H (Lab)	23,912	58.66	
+Marwick, T (SNP)	10,199	25.25	
+Rees-Mogg, J (C)	3,689	9.00	
Lands, R (LD)	2,610	6.40	
Woods, J (Lib)			
Woodsburn, J (Ref)	375	0.92	
<b>Lab Majority</b>	<b>13,713</b>	<b>33.64</b>	
Total Vote 40,765	Turnout 69.90%		
Winnings SNP to Lab 3:3			
1932: Total Vote 42,640 (73.00%): Lab 21,627 (50.72%), SNP 10,686 (24.94%), C 7,716 (18.10%), LD 2,937 (6.85%), Lib 1,091 (2.48%), Ref 1,583 (3.63%)			
Henry McCulloch, B June 15, 1945. Ex-council officer and union leader. Elected 1987: contested 1990, 1994, 1997, 1999. 1990-94: health secretary, 1994-95: transport secretary, Scotland 1992-94: Scotland 1992-94: employment 1989-92. Field regional clir 1978-87 1989-92: 1990-94: formerly Kirkcaldy district clir. Planning officer, Dunfermline District council, 1987-90: 1990-94: planning officer.			

Henri-Victor Univ. 1973-87; 2nd. Parliament 1987-91; 3rd. Parliament 1991-95; 4th. Parliament 1995-99; 5th. Parliament 1999-2003; 6th. Parliament 2003-07; 7th. Parliament 2007-11; 8th. Parliament 2011-15; 9th. Parliament 2015-19; 10th. Parliament 2019-23; 11th. Parliament 2023-27; 12th. Parliament 2027-31; 13th. Parliament 2031-35; 14th. Parliament 2035-39; 15th. Parliament 2039-43; 16th. Parliament 2043-47; 17th. Parliament 2047-51; 18th. Parliament 2051-55; 19th. Parliament 2055-59; 20th. Parliament 2059-63; 21st. Parliament 2063-67; 22nd. Parliament 2067-71; 23rd. Parliament 2071-75; 24th. Parliament 2075-79; 25th. Parliament 2079-83; 26th. Parliament 2083-87; 27th. Parliament 2087-91; 28th. Parliament 2091-95; 29th. Parliament 2095-99; 30th. Parliament 2099-2031; 31st. Parliament 2031-2063; 32nd. Parliament 2063-2095; 33rd. Parliament 2095-2127; 34th. Parliament 2127-2159; 35th. Parliament 2159-2191; 36th. Parliament 2191-2223; 37th. Parliament 2223-2255; 38th. Parliament 2255-2287; 39th. Parliament 2287-2319; 40th. Parliament 2319-2351; 41st. Parliament 2351-2383; 42nd. Parliament 2383-2415; 43rd. Parliament 2415-2447; 44th. Parliament 2447-2479; 45th. Parliament 2479-2511; 46th. Parliament 2511-2543; 47th. Parliament 2543-2575; 48th. Parliament 2575-2607; 49th. Parliament 2607-2639; 50th. Parliament 2639-2671; 51st. Parliament 2671-2703; 52nd. Parliament 2703-2735; 53rd. Parliament 2735-2767; 54th. Parliament 2767-2799; 55th. Parliament 2799-2831; 56th. Parliament 2831-2863; 57th. Parliament 2863-2895; 58th. Parliament 2895-2927; 59th. Parliament 2927-2959; 60th. Parliament 2959-2991; 61st. Parliament 2991-3023; 62nd. Parliament 3023-3055; 63rd. Parliament 3055-3087; 64th. Parliament 3087-3119; 65th. Parliament 3119-3151; 66th. Parliament 3151-3183; 67th. Parliament 3183-3215; 68th. Parliament 3215-3247; 69th. Parliament 3247-3279; 70th. Parliament 3279-3311; 71st. Parliament 3311-3343; 72nd. Parliament 3343-3375; 73rd. Parliament 3375-3407; 74th. Parliament 3407-3439; 75th. Parliament 3439-3471; 76th. Parliament 3471-3503; 77th. Parliament 3503-3535; 78th. Parliament 3535-3567; 79th. Parliament 3567-3599; 80th. Parliament 3599-3631; 81st. Parliament 3631-3663; 82nd. Parliament 3663-3695; 83rd. Parliament 3695-3727; 84th. Parliament 3727-3759; 85th. Parliament 3759-3791; 86th. Parliament 3791-3823; 87th. Parliament 3823-3855; 88th. Parliament 3855-3887; 89th. Parliament 3887-3919; 90th. Parliament 3919-3951; 91st. Parliament 3951-3983; 92nd. Parliament 3983-4015; 93rd. Parliament 4015-4047; 94th. Parliament 4047-4079; 95th. Parliament 4079-4111; 96th. Parliament 4111-4143; 97th. Parliament 4143-4175; 98th. Parliament 4175-4207; 99th. Parliament 4207-4239; 100th. Parliament 4239-4271; 101st. Parliament 4271-4303; 102nd. Parliament 4303-4335; 103rd. Parliament 4335-4367; 104th. Parliament 4367-4399; 105th. Parliament 4399-4431; 106th. Parliament 4431-4463; 107th. Parliament 4463-4495; 108th. Parliament 4495-4527; 109th. Parliament 4527-4559; 110th. Parliament 4559-4591; 111th. Parliament 4591-4623; 112th. Parliament 4623-4655; 113th. Parliament 4655-4687; 114th. Parliament 4687-4719; 115th. Parliament 4719-4751; 116th. Parliament 4751-4783; 117th. Parliament 4783-4815; 118th. Parliament 4815-4847; 119th. Parliament 4847-4879; 120th. Parliament 4879-4911; 121st. Parliament 4911-4943; 122nd. Parliament 4943-4975; 123rd. Parliament 4975-5007; 124th. Parliament 5007-5039; 125th. Parliament 5039-5071; 126th. Parliament 5071-5103; 127th. Parliament 5103-5135; 128th. Parliament 5135-5167; 129th. Parliament 5167-5199; 130th. Parliament 5199-5231; 131st. Parliament 5231-5263; 132nd. Parliament 5263-5295; 133rd. Parliament 5295-5327; 134th. Parliament 5327-5359; 135th. Parliament 5359-5391; 136th. Parliament 5391-5423; 137th. Parliament 5423-5455; 138th. Parliament 5455-5487; 139th. Parliament 5487-5519; 140th. Parliament 5519-5551; 141st. Parliament 5551-5583; 142nd. Parliament 5583-5615; 143rd. Parliament 5615-5647; 144th. Parliament 5647-5679; 145th. Parliament 5679-5711; 146th. Parliament 5711-5743; 147th. Parliament 5743-5775; 148th. Parliament 5775-5807; 149th. Parliament 5807-5839; 150th. Parliament 5839-5871; 151st. Parliament 5871-5903; 152nd. Parliament 5903-5935; 153rd. Parliament 5935-5967; 154th. Parliament 5967-5999; 155th. Parliament 5999-6031; 156th. Parliament 6031-6063; 157th. Parliament 6063-6095; 158th. Parliament 6095-6127; 159th. Parliament 6127-6159; 160th. Parliament 6159-6191; 161st. Parliament 6191-6223; 162nd. Parliament 6223-6255; 163rd. Parliament 6255-6287; 164th. Parliament 6287-6319; 165th. Parliament 6319-6351; 166th. Parliament 6351-6383; 167th. Parliament 6383-6415; 168th. Parliament 6415-6447; 169th. Parliament 6447-6479; 170th. Parliament 6479-6511; 171st. Parliament 6511-6543; 172nd. Parliament 6543-6575; 173rd. Parliament 6575-6607; 174th. Parliament 6607-6639; 175th. Parliament 6639-6671; 176th. Parliament 6671-6703; 177th. Parliament 6703-6735; 178th. Parliament 6735-6767; 179th. Parliament 6767-6799; 180th. Parliament 6799-6831; 181st. Parliament 6831-6863; 182nd. Parliament 6863-6895; 183rd. Parliament 6895-6927; 184th. Parliament 6927-6959; 185th. Parliament 6959-6991; 186th. Parliament 6991-7023; 187th. Parliament 7023-7055; 188th. Parliament 7055-7087; 189th. Parliament 7087-7119; 190th. Parliament 7119-7151; 191st. Parliament 7151-7183; 192nd. Parliament 7183-7215; 193rd. Parliament 7215-7247; 194th. Parliament 7247-7279; 195th. Parliament 7279-7311; 196th. Parliament 7311-7343; 197th. Parliament 7343-7375; 198th. Parliament 7375-7407; 199th. Parliament 7407-7439; 200th. Parliament 7439-7471; 201st. Parliament 7471-7503; 202nd. Parliament 7503-7535; 203rd. Parliament 7535-7567; 204th. Parliament 7567-7599; 205th. Parliament 7599-7631; 206th. Parliament 7631-7663; 207th. Parliament 7663-7695; 208th. Parliament 7695-7727; 209th. Parliament 7727-7759; 210th. Parliament 7759-7791; 211st. Parliament 7791-7823; 212th. Parliament 7823-7855; 213th. Parliament 7855-7887; 214th. Parliament 7887-7919; 215th. Parliament 7919-7951; 216th. Parliament 7951-7983; 217th. Parliament 7983-8015; 218th. Parliament 8015-8047; 219th. Parliament 8047-8079; 220th. Parliament 8079-8111; 221st. Parliament 8111-8143; 222nd. Parliament 8143-8175; 223rd. Parliament 8175-8207; 224th. Parliament 8207-8239; 225th. Parliament 8239-8271; 226th. Parliament 8271-8303; 227th. Parliament 8303-8335; 228th. Parliament 8335-8367; 229th. Parliament 8367-8399; 230th. Parliament 8399-8431; 231st. Parliament 8431-8463; 232nd. Parliament 8463-8495; 233rd. Parliament 8495-8527; 234th. Parliament 8527-8559; 235th. Parliament 8559-8591; 236th. Parliament 8591-8623; 237th. Parliament

1992. John: vice-chair, all-party association football party group; sports group; Scottish sports group; newspaper group, 1994-. Standing junior counsel to Army in Scotland, 1980-82; member, Legal Aid Central Committee, 1983-87; member, Resisting Council for Scotland 1984-87. Chair, Royal Lyceum Theatre Co. Edinburgh, 1984-87; governor, Scottish Sports Aid Foundation, 1981-89; trustee, Scottish International Education Trust, 1984-. Former UK 100m record holder. Ed Hillhead HS, Glasgow; Glasgow Univ; Stanford Univ, California.

**G**

**GALLOWAY & UPPER  
NIGHTDALE**  
SNP gain from C

Electorate	52,751 (53,482)	%Votes
Morgan, A (SNP)	18,449	43.91
Johnson, M (F)	10,885	20.59

McFarling, J. (C)	6,525	30.05
McFarling, J. (D)	6,525	30.05
McFarling, J. (LD)	2,700	6.41
Wood, R. (Ind)	598	1.35
Kennedy, A. (Rd)	428	1.02
Strick, J. (J.K. Ind)	182	0.45
<b>SNP Majority</b>	<b>5,624</b>	<b>13.38</b>
<b>Total Vote 42,018</b>	<b>Turnout 79.85%</b>	
<b>Swing to SNP 13,476</b>		
<b>1992: Total Vote 34,275</b>	<b>80.92% (2)</b>	
<b>18,173 (41.99%)</b>	<b>SNP 15,773</b>	
<b>1992: SNP 15,773</b>	<b>45.99% (2)</b>	
<b>3,721 (8.46%)</b>	<b>SNP 2,400 (5.5%)</b>	
<b>Absentee Morgan, B April 21, 1945.</b>		
<b>Computer systems team leader.</b>		
<b>1992: SNP 15,773</b>		
<b>national sec 1992: (general election first 1992); sec and former natl treas</b>		
<b>1992: SNP 15,773</b>		
<b>Scottish Cabinet, Ed Broadbent</b>		
<b>Ac. Aberfeldy, Glasgow Univ. O.U.</b>		

<b>GLASGOW ANNIESLAND</b>		
<b>Lab hold</b>		
<b>25,965 (53.68%)</b>	<b>50,951</b>	
<b>+Dewar, D. (SNP)</b>	<b>20,951</b>	<b>61.84</b>
<b>Brookhurst, A. (SNP)</b>	<b>19,711</b>	<b>41.11</b>
<b>Brookhurst, A. (C)</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>7.11</b>
<b>Brookhurst, A. (D)</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>4.71</b>
<b>Major, A. (ProLife)</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>0.51</b>
<b>Bayard, W. (SSA)</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>0.48</b>
<b>Milligan, A. (Rd)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0.22</b>
<b>Milligan, A. (Rd)</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>0.22</b>
<b>Trickett, T. (NLP)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Lab Majority</b>	<b>15,544</b>	<b>47.73</b>
<b>Total Vote 38,879</b>	<b>Turnout 83.98%</b>	
<b>Swing SNP To Lab 4,324</b>		
<b>1992: Total Vote 37,885</b>	<b>70.22% (Lab)</b>	
<b>21,076 (55.67%)</b>	<b>SNP 14,411 (37.95%)</b>	
<b>C. 8,996 (15.46%)</b>	<b>D. 15,166 (13.71%)</b>	
<b>Other 213 (0.57%)</b>	<b>SNP 13,589</b>	

382869  
 Glasgow, Glasgow, Aug 21, 1937. Lab  
 Chief: Whip (1937-1937). Shadow  
 Cabinet since 1984. MP for  
 Glasgow Garscadden 1978-87, and  
 Glasgow, 1987-90. Continued MP for  
 1984 and 1990. Chief Lab  
 spokesman on social security 1992-  
 1993. Shadow Minister for  
 1993-1994. Shadow  
 Minister for 1994-1995. Shadow  
 Minister for 1995-1996. Chief. Scottish  
 Labour select committee. 1979-81: PPS to  
 the House of Lords. Trade 1967-  
 1968. Solicitors' consultants (Lumpsum)  
 to Ross Harper & Murphy (solicitors):  
 was partner in firm. Weekly  
 £1000 for 1990-1991.  
 Sponsored by RMT 1992. Ed  
 Glasgow Acad Glasgow Univ (pres  
 of union 1961-62).

**GLASGOW BAILLIESTOWN**  
 Lab (Lab)

	1981	1982	1983	%Voted
W. H. Webb	11,152	52,207		65.69
Thomson, F. (SNP)			20,925	19.10
Healy, M. (C)			6,085	18.15
Rainey, S. (LSD)			2,468	7.75
McVicar, J. (SD)			1,217	3.82
			970	3.09

<b>Lab Majority</b>	<b>14,940</b>	<b>46.55</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,853</b>	<b>Turnout 82.2%</b>
<b>Swing</b>	<b>7,287</b>	<b>2.27</b>
<b>Swing Total</b>	<b>14,940</b>	<b>(73.75%) Lab</b>
<b>C 3,448</b>	<b>(33.22%); SNP 7,505</b>	<b>(22.57%);</b>
<b>C 3,448</b>	<b>(3.96%); LD 1,505</b>	<b>(4.32%);</b>
<b>Jam Maj</b>	<b>14,166</b>	<b>(40.65%).</b>

**James May**, b April 28, 1938. Ex-homes goods vehicle driver. MP for Glasgow North West since 1997. Member select ctee on European legislation; former vice-convenor, Scottish group of Lab MPs; former chair of Labour Party's Scotland Region. 1980-81: Scotland, Strathclyde constituencies clir 1976- led Gorbals run strike and anti-dampness campaigns. 1981-82: Scotland, Strathclyde. 1987 (vice-pres, 1986); Gorbals UD FC; St Ennoch's Drug Centre; Scottish Ex-Brokers' Assoc. Sponsored by TCGW 1992.

GLASGOW KWINE		
Lab hold		
William Wallace, G (Lab)	57,438 (53.80%)	94Votes
Galloway, G (Lab)	16,843	20.97
White, S (SNP)	9,578	21.37
Green, E (LD)	4,629	11.44
McNair, J (Lib)	3,539	8.90
Green, A (GSA)	2,993	7.18
Grigor, R (Ref)	282	0.88
McNair, V (SPGB)	102	0.31
McNicol, G (NLP)	55	0.29
Lab Majority	9,865	29.60
Turnout	72.58%	
1992 Total 32,254	Turnout 56.56%	
1992 Total 32,254	Turnout 56.56%	
1992: Total Votes 32,215 (57.46%)		
Lab 16,841 (48.83%); SNP 9,578 (31.28%);		
LD 4,629 (13.41%); A 2,993 (9.29%);		
McNair 3,539 (10.94%); G 1,706 (5.29%);		
McNicol 55 (0.17%); Lab Maj 9,865		
(27.58%)		
Galloway, W. Aug 16, 1954		
MP for Glasgow Hillhead 1987-97,		
1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06, 2010-11		
Member, until 1991; as, all-party		
and union party groups, Ed		
McNair and party groups, Ed		
McNair, party groups, Ed		
party, Freelance journalist; Dir		
of Glasgow media centre, 1997-98		
as of charity Waron Want 1993 and		
previously Lab Party organiser and		
Lib Party, media work, 1997-98		
CGWU 1992, Ed Charleston		
Private: Harry Acad, Dundee.		



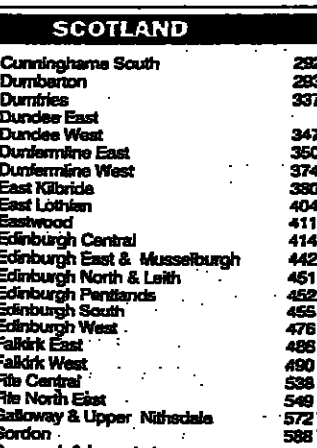
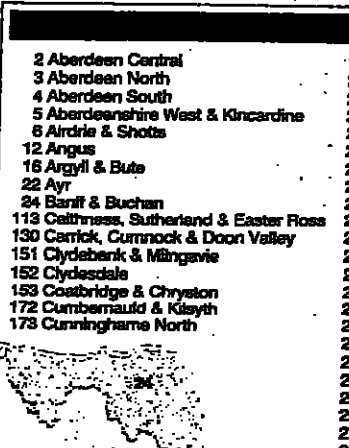
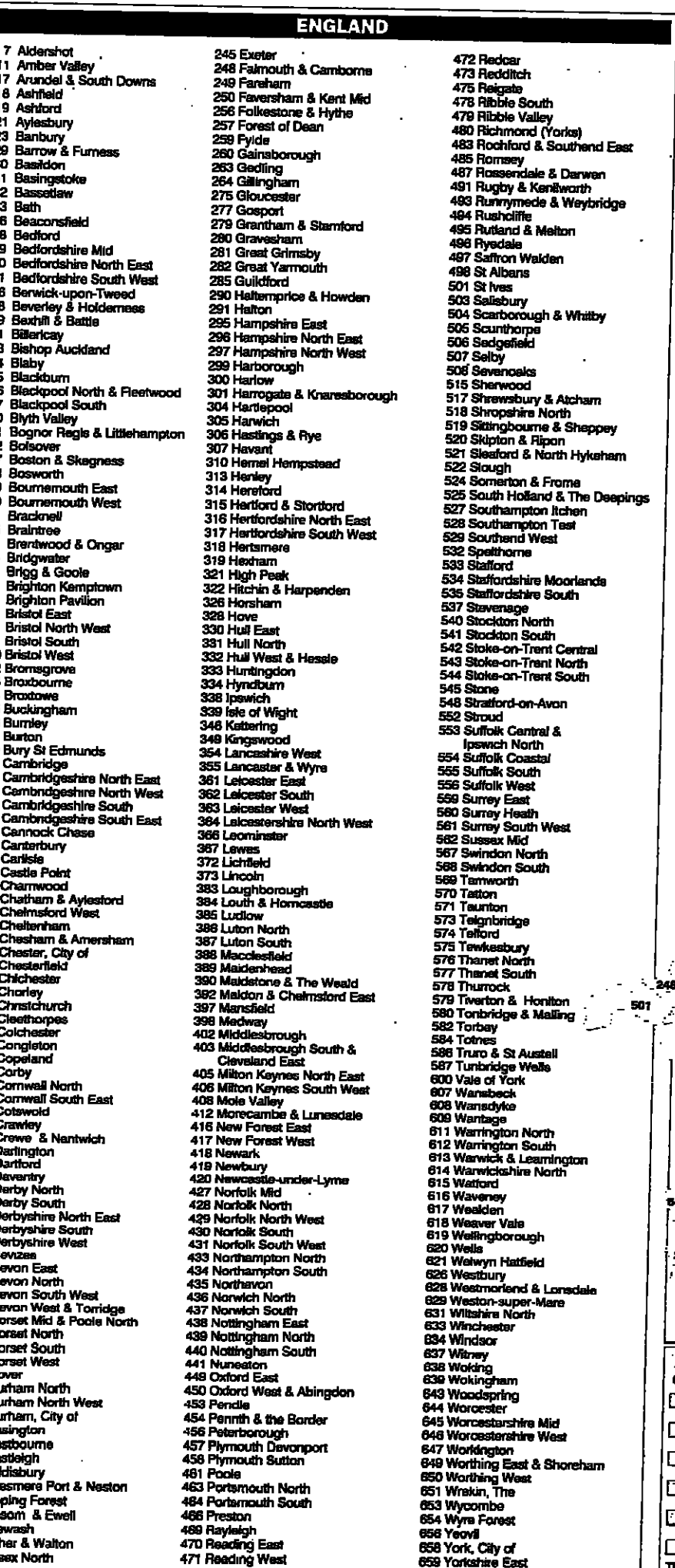
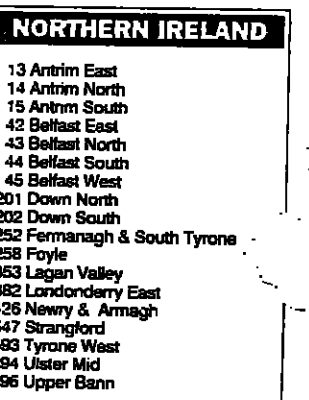
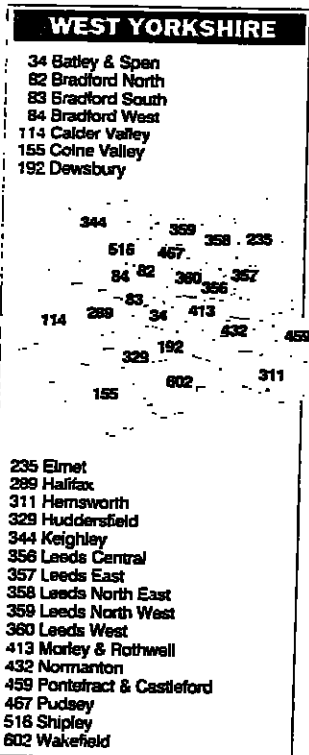
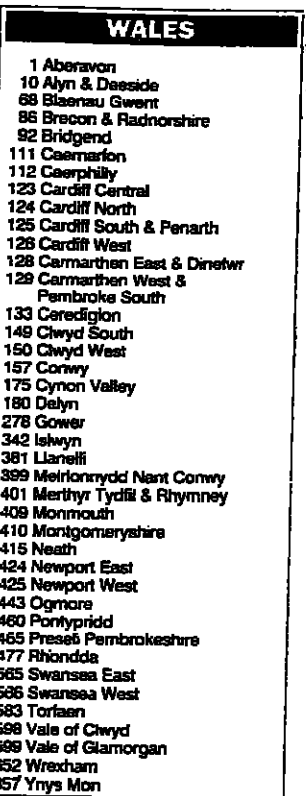
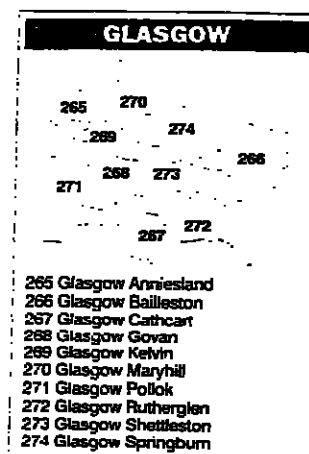








# ELECTION 97 RESULTS







## UNSUITABLE 62

When private health insurers will not pay up

## WEEKEND MONEY

## INSCRUTABLE 60

The Hong Kong market after China takes over



## THE TIMES PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## The £77bn that lies unclaimed

Speculation that the Halifax share price could rise as high as 500p, making the minimum basic distribution of 200 shares worth £1,000 will mean more dismay for the millions who are not benefiting from this summer's conversion payouts. But if you are not receiving a package of free shares this summer, do not give up hope. A little research could yield you a windfall from the £77 billion of forgotten funds and unclaimed cash that lies waiting.

The first step for those of a forgetful nature should be to search drawers for long-forgotten building society passbooks. Thousands have failed to claim their shares because they have frequently moved house and not informed the society of their most recent address. When the Alliance & Leicester floated last month, about £247 million worth of shares were left unclaimed.

If this pattern is repeated in the flotations of the Norwich Union, Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock, by the end of the year, there could be a total of £2 billion of unclaimed shares — equivalent to 1p off the basic rate of income tax for one year.

Another £55 billion lies unclaimed in banks, building societies and National Savings accounts and shares, according to research from IFA Promotion, the body that represents financial advisers. Of this, some £41 billion lies in dormant or obsolete bank and building society accounts. Some £1.6 billion worth of matured National Savings certificates from past issues earn only the token general

Caroline Merrell

on how a

little research

could help to

track down the

missing millions

extension rate of 3.51 per cent. There is a further £333 million in unclaimed company pensions, £20 billion of unclaimed flotation benefits, £1 billion of unclaimed stocks and £108 million of unclaimed proceeds of life insurance policies.

The National Lottery has already generated unclaimed cash prizes of £24 million, while unclaimed Premium Bonds amount to £14 million. Another big area of money looking for an owner is in unclaimed legacies. Every year thousands of people die without drawing up a will, leaving some £100 million. Solicitors and banks acting on behalf of those who die intestate often hire firms of genealogists to track down the next of kin, linking the inheritance with the rightful owner. However, these windfalls come at a price. Custom and practice seems to have determined that genealogists can charge commission of up to a third of the recovered assets. This is an unregulated industry with no cap on charges.

The genealogist may advertise for information in the press. In this case, the firm will charge a daily rate and the beneficiary will not have to pay anything. If the next of kin

cannot be traced, the estate will be passed to the Treasury solicitor, who will then try to trace the next nearest living relative by advertising in the local and national press.

Fraser & Fraser is one of the world's biggest firms of genealogists, with offices in Rome, London and Warsaw. Nathan Fraser, a partner with the firm, said that most work came from solicitors trying to find the heirs to estates where no will had been left.

However, the firm is also involved in tracing the rightful owners of other assets. Mr Fraser said: "When the Ministry of Defence sold off the married couples' quarters, the property first had to be offered back to the heirs of those people who had sold the houses to the Ministry of Defence in the first place."

He claimed that the vast majority of the beneficiaries of his tracing work received no more than a few thousand pounds. However, the firm had been instrumental in tracing the rightful owners of shares worth more than £1 million in the Press Association, the news agency.

Solicitors warn anyone who is approached by a genealogist to consult their own solicitor straight away. They advise finding out the size of the inheritance before anything is signed. Even if the genealogist refuses to say how much the possible windfall could be, the potential inheritors should make sure that they only sign documentation that allows them to negotiate commission when they know how much the inheritance is going to be.



## HOW TO CLAIM YOUR SHARE

■ Intestacy. The affairs of anyone who dies without making a will eventually find their way to the Treasury solicitor. Those who think they could be due for an inheritance should call 0171 710 3000.

■ Life insurance. Individual life insurance companies will try to contact those who do not claim the proceeds of their policies. They will go through the banks and will even contact policyholders' GPs, if they can. Anyone who thinks they could be entitled to proceeds from a policy should contact the company.

■ National Savings. Unclaimed Premium Bond prizes can be obtained by written request from: National Savings Blackpool, FY 9YP. Holders of savings certificates should write, including either the certificate or as many details as possible about its issue, to: National Savings Durham, DH99 1NS. Money held in National Savings investment accounts or ordinary accounts can be claimed by sending your pass book to National Savings, Glasgow, G5 1SB.

■ National Lottery. Winners must claim their prizes within 180 days or by the date on the ticket with instant games. Prizes up to £75 can be claimed from the ticket retailer. Further information on 0645 100 000.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Canada call prompts assets hunt



Missing sums: Stephen White is seeking about £15,000

The reach of genealogists is very wide, as Stephen White, a solicitor from Wales found out. Mr White was recently contacted by two of his cousins who now live in Canada. They had been approached by a firm of genealogists working in London called Premier Asset Research.

Mr White said: "The London company claimed to have traced unclaimed assets held in trust. The company is offering to recover the assets for 25 per cent of their value." He wanted to know where the company had got the information from, and whether the trustees should have done more to find the rightful owners of the assets. He added: "My immediate reaction on receipt of the letter was 'if they can find out about these assets, why can't I find out about them?'"

Mr White said that he had checked the family connections as he was the executor

to his parents-in-law's estate. These were the direct relatives of the two cousins. However, he found that it did not relate to his parents-in-law. He is now trying to trace the missing money, which amounts to about £15,000.

Mr White said: "What are the duties of a trustee in tracing the beneficiaries of a trust or executors in tracing legatees. If I pay over 25 per cent of the assets to the company, could I recover this from the trustees or executors on the grounds that they have not done enough to trace the assets?" Premier Asset Research would not comment.

Tom Curran, managing director of Tide Research, the genealogist, said he advised anyone approached by a company claiming to have tracked down assets, to consult their own solicitor. He defended the fees, by saying that people would otherwise have been unaware of the cash.

However, this payment does not include the payments to the actual mortgage lender. Servicing an interest-only £50,000 loan, for example, currently costs a couple about another £300 per month.

More sinisterly, getting social classes C and D, who have so far largely ignored Peps, into the equation will be good news for L&G's balance sheet and should help to repay its investment in new systems.

For there is a high cost to the plan's much vaunted simplicity. L&G is also paying traditional endowment commissions to financial advisers. In the first two years, 65 per cent of the Pep money disappears in fees. Although there is no initial charge on the Pep for mortgage borrowers, they will pay an annual 1 per cent levy and a £2 administration fee for the duration of the loan. Remember, annual charges have the greatest impact as they are based on the value of the fund and should increase every year. This leaves the young couple paying L&G a total of £8,300 in charges over 25 years.

This is actually better than the flexible Pep mortgages from Halifax and Standard Life. Halifax's Tax-Free Home Plan takes a massive 7.5 per cent slice out of every premium, 0.5 per cent a year plus a £3 administration charge. This leaves the young couple paying £80.68 a month and a total of £10,900 in charges over 25 years.

Standard's Homebuilder Pep levies a 5.6 per cent initial charge and a 0.91 per cent annual management fee. At £67.33, the monthly premiums undercut L&G, but leave the young borrowers paying £11,600 over the course of the loan.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE MERCURY PEP

# Windfall shares

## Don't let the taxman take a bite

The best way to protect your windfall building society and life company shares from the taxman is to shelter them in a Personal Equity Plan.

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MERCURY  
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\*Investors who only hold windfall shares in their PEP (with no other Mercury investment) will be charged a fee of 1% plus VAT on the termination of their PEP or transfer to another PEP Manager. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management plc, which is regulated by IMRO. ■ This advertisement is issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ Remember that the value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

## L&G aims to pep up flexible endowment mortgages

Legal & General has kicked off the post-election mortgage campaign with an attempt to pep up the much-maligned endowment as a method of repaying home loans. It claims its new flexible mortgage plan offers borrowers the best features of the traditional endowment, plus the tax-free status of a personal equity plan (PEP).

The idea that the traditional with-profit endowment has any redeeming features might stick in the throat of many home owners who took up the plans in the Eighties. Endowment policies achieved almost pariah status as high initial charges and poor performance caused by falling bonus rates left thousands unable to pay off their loans. Their inflexible payment regime has also made them increasingly unpopular as job insecurity has grown in the Nineties.

In contrast, Peps have, on the whole, achieved superior investment returns based on their tax exemptions and the fact that they are wholly exposed to equity markets. With-profit policies lost their tax concessions back in 1984 and dilute their equity exposure with investments in bonds, property and cash deposits. Peps also allow investors to vary and suspend their payments. This flexibility has already attracted Halifax and Standard Life to use them as their flagship mortgage products.

But the outstanding advantage of the traditional endowment, L&G believes, is that they combined loan repayment with life and critical illness cover in one contract. It has spent millions of pounds on a new computer system that can administer the Pep and insurance sides simultaneously.

This, it says, has driven down costs enabling it to offer a low-cost product to compete in the mass mortgage market. Borrowers opting for the Pep will have their money split evenly between L&G's UK Index Tracker fund and its World-wide fund of funds, giving a broad diversity of investments. Assuming the Pep grows at the unlikely rate of 9 per cent per annum for 25 years, L&G says a couple aged 29 taking out a joint mortgage for £50,000 would pay £70.92 a month, nearly £6 cheaper than equivalent plans from Scottish Amicable and almost £21 less than Guardian. If the Pep managed to grow faster than this, borrowers have the option of paying off the mortgage early or creaming off the excess at maturity. In addition, they can suspend payments for up to nine months or add lump sums whenever they like. They can also withdraw accumulated capital from the Pep.



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Current predictions put the opening price for the shares at closer to 550p. City broking firms that are advising the financial institutions, such as

# Mutuals and banks join rates battle

The Halifax has this week attempted to point out the advantages of its postal share dealing service, which will be free for the first ten days of trading. It has been suggested that thousands will bypass this service, opting to take share certificates and selling through other stockbroking firms in the hope of getting a higher price for their holding.

Crest is already plagued with long delays. If the system did become entirely log-jammed with paperwork,

■ If you use the Halifax service, you will be able to

ANNE ASHWORTH

**Baroness Thatcher showed her forte for thrift was unabated during the campaign**

## Cashing in your Endo

which is now part of Lloyds

Nationwide has promised to keep the rates 0.25 percentage points higher than the average for key postal account competitors for the next six months. Existing Nationwide customers with notice accounts or variable bonds can transfer to the new account without penalty for a limited period. For information call 0800 665 511.

Sainsbury's Bank is paying 5.75 per cent on deposits of more than £1. Call 0800 405 060. The First Instant Postal account from Coventry Building Society pays a similar amount for deposits between £1,000 and £24,999. Call 0345 665 522.

Please quote reference TP30



## Gloves come off in the battle for savers

Prepare for a summer of tacking between the building societies that are proud to be mutual and their erstwhile colleagues. The row threatens to drown out even political squabbles.

Which? this week took the side of the committed mutuals, saying that they would provide the best value for savers. The magazine claimed that, over the long term, the extra interest paid by these societies would be worth more than the shares being distributed to customers of the Halifax and its four fellows.

For savers, these disputes are good news. The mutuals will be forced now to live up to the image created by Which? providing reasons that can resist the demagogical whiff of the Halifax. Typical Halifax customers can expect to receive shares valued at a minimum of £1,660. A big target.

The Halifax and the other new banks will be determined to prove Which? wrong and so can be relied upon to improve their rates to savers. Not only must they compete with the invertebrate mutuals, they



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

must also fight off the offensive from the banking divisions of the supermarkets. Sainsbury's pays 5.75 per cent on amounts of £1 or more in an instant-access account, an offer that no other savings institution can match on small sums.

Meanwhile, borrowers who may be wondering about their future welfare should note that the latest blow in the mortgage war has been struck by Northern Rock, not long to be a member of the Building Societies Association.

### Mortgage lacks pep

THE stock market believes that, once floated, the Halifax will bid for

Legal & General. Perhaps to avoid contemplating such a future, L&G is looking into the past. This week it has revived the endowment mortgage, that emblem of the Eighties, inextricably linked with that era's rise and fall in property prices. You can almost hear the signature tune from *Dynasty*. To avoid accusations of nostalgia, L&G has grafted its endowment onto a personal equity plan (PeP), that favourite investment of the Nineties. However, the commissions that will be paid to middlemen have a distinctly retro flavour. Only 35 per cent of the money paid into the plan in the first two years will be invested (see page 57). These charges are certainly high.

However, anyone presuming that the PeP mortgages now being so actively sold by the Halifax represent a cheaper option should be prepared for a shock. Over a 25-year £50,000 mortgage, the charges on an L&G plan would be £8,300, compared with £10,900 at the Halifax. These figures explain why the no-frills repayment mortgage never goes out of fashion.

This means that you can make one of the largest financial commitments of your life, without hope of redress for a bad recommendation.

Mr Brown can expect resistance from lenders who do not want mortgages brought within the scope of the Financial Services Act. But he must keep his manifesto promise to provide extra rights for borrowers.

Long-term care policies, designed to pay out if you need residential care in old age, are also unregulated. This gives free rein to the unscrupulous to prey on the fears of retired people, encouraging them to buy expensive and often unnecessary cover. The salesman, anxious for his commission, is unlikely to mention that only one in four of the elderly ever need to go into residential care. He is not obliged to say that you will have to prove yourself pitifully incapacitated before making a claim.

Acting in the interests of homebuyers and pensioners might do something to lighten Mr Brown's austere image. A Chancellor who may need to impose higher taxes must win friends somewhere.

### The first tasks

THE much needed reform of investor protection should be among the issues to be addressed by Gordon Brown in his first weeks as Chancellor. He should ensure that the safety net is extended to include long-term care policies and mortgages. In both areas, the consumer deserves to be shielded from sharks.

From July, a voluntary code will cover mortgage advice. But only banks and building societies will need to comply. Brokers and other organisations that now arrange some 50 per cent of loans do not yet come within the scope of the code.

Conal Gregory reports on which sporting items are proving sound investments

## A quick round in the attic

A Bank Holiday search of the attic for sports items could pay dividends to judge by estimates for next week's international sale of golf memorabilia by Phillips, the fine arts house, in Edinburgh.

Only last month, a collection of 14,000 football programmes sold for almost £78,000 even though Bonham's, the auctioneer, had expected £50,000-£60,000. The programme for the England v Ireland game at Goodison Park in 1935 made £760, while the 1926 England v Scotland International at Old Trafford realised £860. The top price was £4,200 for the single sheet programme for England's 8-1 victory over Ireland in Belfast in 1884. Last

autumn a blue international cap from 1938-39 awarded to Billy Wright for his historic 100th international appearance for England, made £9,200 at Christie's in Glasgow. Presentation pieces to sportsmen are a good investment. At the same auction, a silver-gilt two-handled trophy, presented to Wright at a civic banquet in his honour in Wolverhampton in 1959, realised £16,676.

Tennis articles are also very collectible. The championship trophies and medals of Fred Perry, the great lawn tennis player, come under the hammer at Christie's South Kensington on June 20.

Perry's vase-shaped trophy cup when he won the singles

title in the world table tennis championship in Budapest in 1929 is expected to make £250-£450. After this victory, he concentrated on lawn tennis.

The 14-carat gold medal awarded to Perry for the Davis Cup team's first triumph in 21 years could make £3,000. Usually players were given miniature replicas of their trophies, but Perry was the first overseas winner to be presented with the full size (19 inches) Challenge Cup, after his successes in 1933, 1934 and 1936. It should make £10,000-£20,000. More modest is the Slazenger lawn tennis racket when Perry won Wimbledon (£1,000-£2,000).

Fishing tackle sales are of growing interest. Look for

salmon and trout fly reels, sea rods, fishing rods, fly cabinets and boxes, wicker creels and both wooden and plaster models of fish, as well as early stuffed fish by one of the great names of taxidermy such as Cooper. A carved wooden sea trout dated April 1913 made £3,520 at Christie's Glasgow while a stuffed pike, that was caught at Wroxham Broad in Norfolk in 1915, and weighed 20lb, realised £770. A Hardy salmon reel, the "Ascapeda", made £6,900 and a Charles Farlow post-bellied wicker creel more than £430.

With millions of amateur golfers around the world, there is a growing interest in golf memorabilia. While remarkable sums can be

achieved for rare pieces, Phillips says that for about £1,000, a buyer can secure a fascinating collection of antique golf clubs. Over half the lots it offers sell for under £200. The firm now holds two auctions a year — next Saturday's in Edinburgh and in December in New York.

Look for odd-shaped clubs, says Bob Gowland, Phillips' specialist. A Gibson Jonko putter was £300-£400 a decade ago and sells now for £600-£800. American collectors are searching British car boot sales and auctions for putters made by the Karsten Phoenix company with the sole stamped both "Slazenger" and

"Jack Nicklaus": they can make up to £1,000. Unusual golf balls are very collectible. The terrestrial globe bramble ball is so called because it is moulded with the continents and oceans. A good example makes £6,000-£10,000.

Signed scorecards and photographs, perhaps inherited from grandparents, are really sought after, as well as golf rules. Next Saturday a booklet printed by the Thistle Golf Club in 1824 comes under the hammer at Phillips. It is the first known printed set of rules of golf to appear in booklet form. Prior to that date, the rules would have been hung in the club house. It is estimated to make £5,000-£8,000.

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### Summer golf sales tee off

AT PHILLIPS' sale of golfing memorabilia in Edinburgh next Saturday, this photographic portrait of Alec Robertson, the champion golfer, is expected to reach £2,500-£3,500.

As well as the Phillips' sale, Sotheby's is planning a golfing sale for July 11, closely followed by one at Christie's, its rival auction house, on July 14.

For both of these sales, ceramics, cigarette cards and paintings with golfing subjects are keenly sought.

However, if you are looking for tomorrow's collectibles, key match programmes signed by every member of a winning team are one item. Caps, shirts and other items of champions' clothing should also be sought after.



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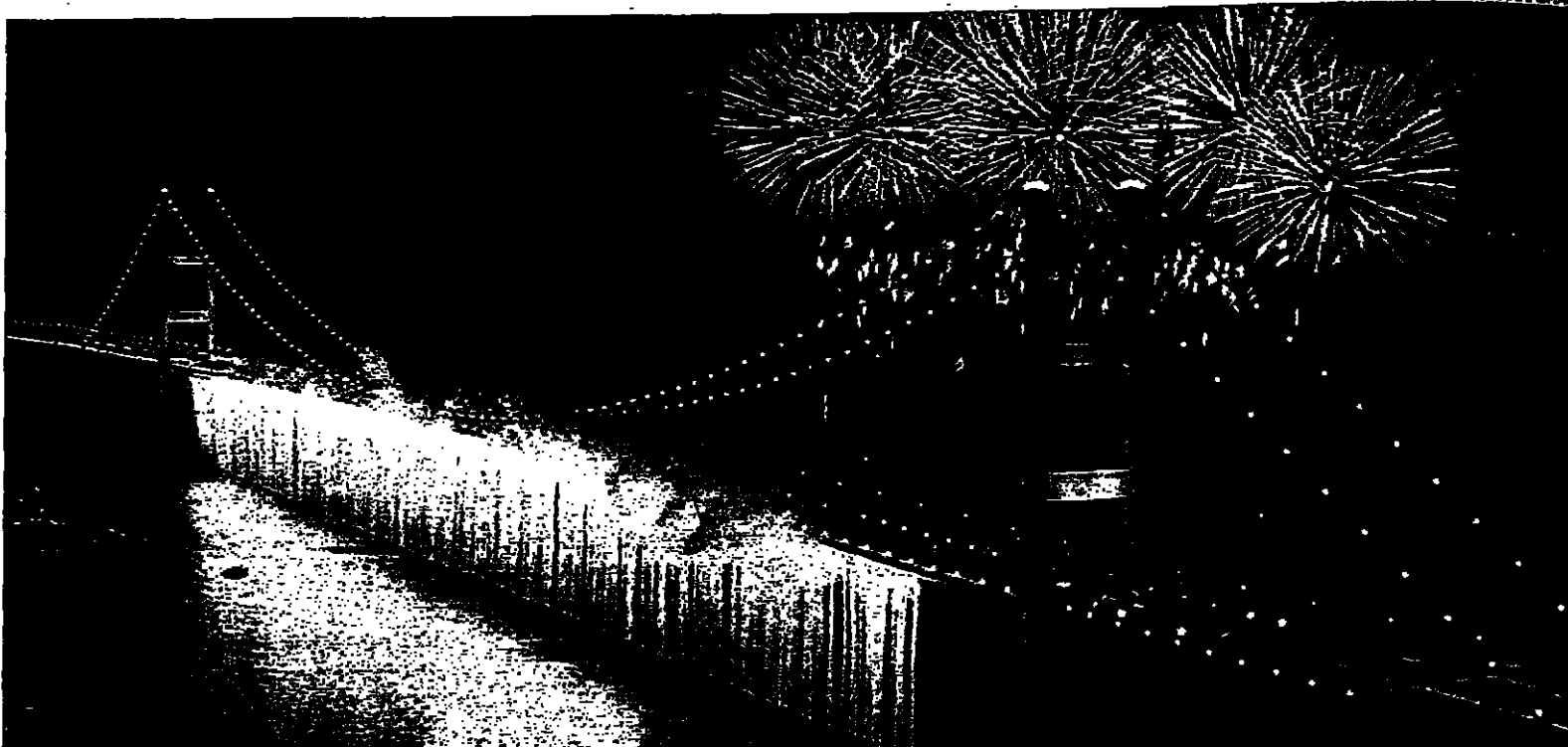
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## As the curtain comes down, Nathan Yates reviews Hong Kong's fate



Last fling: fireworks illuminate the Tsing Ma Bridge after its official opening by Baroness Thatcher last week

## The final act or a flourishing start?

The handover of Hong Kong to communist China used to be seen as the colony's economic doomsday. But as July 1 nears, this apocalyptic vision has yet to be realised, and investors are now thinking twice before pulling out. Far from plunging into a slump, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index is still riding high with less than two months to handover.

There is little sign of panic emigration among the most sought after and expensive in the world, priced at up to HK\$5.745 (£460) per sq ft. The average bedst costs £300,000, and last month 25,300 sq m of land attracted a record US\$1.53 billion at auction.

A recent report by UBS shows Hong Kong GDP soaring at US\$25.101 per capita, and in 1995 Hong Kong was the eighth-largest trading centre in the world. The Hang Seng index over the past ten years has consistently outperformed the FT-SE 100.

Hong Kong has become the main gateway for foreign investment in China. Its share of incoming Chinese investment has risen to 60 per cent, and "red chip" companies, those registered in Hong Kong which have a large exposure to China, are in great demand. Two weeks ago an issue by the red chip Gile Enterprises was 900 times oversubscribed.

Some analysts predict that Hong Kong will reach even greater heights after handover. "The secret of the success in this area is that Hong Kong fits beautifully with southern China," said Richard Farrell, of Guinness Flight Global Asset Management. "The strong financial infrastructure on the one hand and low

wages but quite high skills on the other are a recipe for prosperity, and it is not in China's interest to interfere with that. Hong Kong and China could benefit from closer links." Most experts agree handover will have little effect on shares in Hong Kong, but some are less optimistic on long-term prospects.

Hugh Young, of Abtrust Investment Trusts, sees a gradual decline. "Once there is greater integration with China, Hong Kong will lose its 'gateway' position and Shanghai will become the area's financial centre," he said. "Over 60 per cent of Hong Kong stocks are in property, and when the border comes down there will be a reduction in prices."

Richard Ligon, of UBS, also thinks Hong Kong faces a difficult future. He said: "Much of the large services sector is dependent upon the re-export trade, and this will be hit as Chinese manufactur-

ing becomes more sophisticated. GDP growth has slowed over the past five years and I expect this to continue."

Other analysts say that greater integration with China will bring Hong Kong the opportunity to profit from a vigorous emerging market. "China will soon be the

world's largest and fastest-growing economy, and Hong Kong will remain the access to it," said Michael Astbridge, of Save & Prosper. He thinks that soon there may be good buying opportunities in Hong Kong shares. A rise in US interest rates and tensions in US-Sino relations could create short-term price falls.

China is widely billed as the growth economy of the next few decades. A report last week by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade forecast that by 2020 China will overtake America and become the world's top economic power.

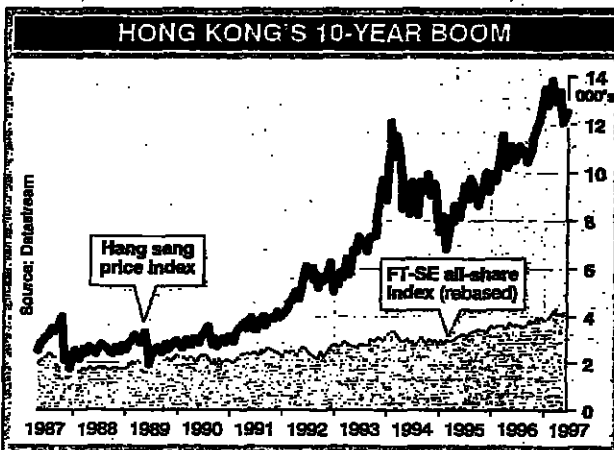
The country's growth rate is already one of the highest, forecast at 10.5 per cent this year against an average 2.6 per cent for leading industrial countries. In the past ten years the Chinese economy has quadrupled and exports doubled their share of the world total.

Under the reforms of the late Deng Xiaoping, the proportion of industrial output controlled by the state decreased from 65 per cent to 31 per cent since 1985. In place of state-owned enterprises collective enterprises run by local co-operatives have come to make up 43 per cent of all industry. Special economic zones have been established in which market-driven enterprise can flourish. Private businesses now make up nearly a third of production.

China's political problems are still a problem for investors. Tension with Taiwan and civil unrest in Tibet persists, and last year a Pentagon report put the chance of a Soviet-style break up at 50-50.

But according to Richard Farrell, of Guinness Flight, China will offer large rewards. "China is a country with absolutely tremendous potential at an early stage of its development, and as such it is an ideal place to put higher-risk capital," he said.

If you want to invest in Hong Kong and China, a general Asia-fund is a good way to manage risks, says BEST Investment, the adviser. Top performers include Schroder Asia Pacific, Credit Suisse Orient and Templeton Emerging Markets. Analysts' tips for funds in Hong Kong and China alone include Jupiter's China Investment Trust and Guinness Flight's Hong Kong and China Fund.



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## European trusts in the spotlight

Morgan Grenfell's compensation programme, which began in earnest this week when 80,000 investors were sent cheques and units, has focused attention on the performance of the European unit trust sector.

Would the investor who stuck with Morgan Grenfell have made money after the shares were quoted on September 5, 1996, after their suspension for three days in the wake of the Peter Young affair? At that time 30 per cent of the fund's investors were taking their money away.

The answer is a simple yes. Unit trust performance is often quoted on an offer-to-bid basis - ie the total return takes into account the higher price at which you would buy units and the lower price you could sell them for, known as the spread.

On an offer-to-bid basis between

September 6 and April 11, the Index of European Growth unit trusts measured by Micropal rose by 4.72 per cent. Measured on the same basis, Morgan Grenfell's European Growth trust rose by 2.76 per cent. The best performing trust over the period was Gartmore PSF European which rose by 11.5 per cent while Jupiter European rose by 8.36 per cent.

On a bid-to-bid basis, based on pure performance and which does not take the funds' spread into account, for the same period the Micropal index was up 9.23 per cent; Morgan Grenfell rose 9.86 per cent; and the best performer, Sun Alliance Europe, rose 18.59 per cent. The figures are based on a lump sum investment of £1,000.

The Morgan Grenfell European trusts have been restricted since September. Under Peter Young, 40 per cent of the portfolio was in technology stocks. Stuart Mitchell, the new fund manager, has redirected capital to other sectors, including banking. Since January, his European Growth fund has risen on an offer-to-bid basis by 7.4 per cent, placing it number 34 out of 130 trusts.

Mark Dampier, investment director of Churchill Investments near Bristol, favours Credit Suisse European, which turned in a 9.37 per cent rise on a bid-to-bid basis between September 6 and April 11, and 3.12 per cent on an offer-to-bid basis. He also likes Jupiter European and Invesco European: "a solid investment".

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Adam Jones takes a closer look at funds' moral credentials

# Ethical? Well sort of...

If you should ever meet the manager of an "ethical" fund at a dinner party, ask them one question: can you invest in your own company? The answer may surprise you.

Ethical investment has become one of the fund management industry's favourite catchphrases. It can also be one of the emptiest.

The 25 UK funds broadly identified as ethical by Eiris, the investment research body, manage about £13 billion between them.

Their investment strategy will be to avoid stocks that seem to be harmful to people or the environment, or to select stocks that make a positive contribution to activities right-thinking people would encourage, or a bit of both.

It goes without saying that the definition of "ethical" varies enormously from fund to fund. A question that has taxed philosophers since the dawn of civilisation will not be resolved by a pinstripe in an afternoon. The variations can lead to accusations that some funds' criteria are loose enough to allow almost any investment the fund manager cares to argue for.

However, before checking the investment strategy, would-be investors must bring their own critical faculties to bear upon the fund manager itself.

Eagle Star, for instance, has an Environmental Opportunities Trust. This middling-performance unit trust channels money towards companies that have good environmental practices. It also looks at those well placed to cash-in on the boom in green spending.

Eagle Star says that it strenuously avoids being labelled as an ethical fund. But the kind of person who is drawn to a greenish fund like this might be upset to discover that Eagle Star is owned by BAT Industries, the cigarettes-to-financial services group.

An even bigger absurdity is found at Abbey Life, the insurer, which started an ethical trust in 1986. Abbey Life



Smoking lesson: is it ethical for an environmental fund to be owned by a tobacco group?

became a wholly owned subsidiary of Lloyds TSB this year. But because of Lloyds Bank's much criticised record on Third World debt, the fund considers its parent company too unethical to invest in.

Why should an ethical investor put their money into an Abbey Life fund, then, if it will ultimately benefit Lloyds TSB? Abbey Life is understandably sheepish on this point. It says

the fund, established long before the Lloyds takeover, does not make much profit, and says banks are not being stigmatised so much now for their lending history.

Lee Coates, of the Ethical Investors Group, a firm of independent financial advisers, helps to choose stocks for a "fund of funds" run by Skandia. It invests in a

broad range of trusts that display ethical criteria. Mr Coates says Abbey Life's Ethical Trust is a stock they avoid.

For the same reason, he says the ethical investor would shun TSB's Environmental Investor Fund, TSB, which was bought by Lloyds, says its fund is not marketed as an ethical product, and should not be judged on Third World debt issues. But

Mr Coates says he has yet to meet an investor who was worried about the environment, yet unconcerned about ethical issues, such as the Third World, or funding arms manufacture, pornography and gambling. "All the issues are inter-related."

Other fund managers with less than squeaky-clean pasts include Commercial Union, a target of criticism during the 1980s because of involvement in South Africa during apartheid.

It runs an environmental investment trust, mainly institutional, which has performed poorly: £100 invested five years ago would be worth just £95.45 now. Again, CU maintains it is not marketed as an ethical fund. But if the motivation was to cash in on the boom in eco-products, where are the profits?

On the positive side, Friends Provident funds environmental research at Oxford University. NPI is one of only two UK insurers to join a United Nations scheme that commits companies to the constant improvement of their environmental impact.

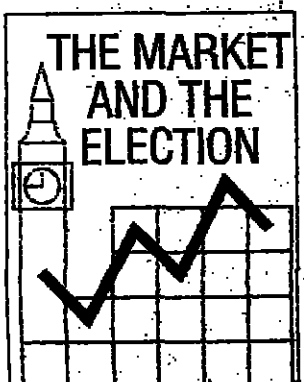
This has not done NPI any harm: the Global Care Income fund is the top performer in the sector over the past year, according to Micropal, the performance analyst. It would have turned £100 into £117.46.

However, NPI is also the subject of bid speculation. A new owner could well lead to a blacklisting, especially as NatWest has been a rumoured, if unlikely, suitor.

The true ethical investor must be savvy to these changes. Even though day-to-day management of their money is delegated to a professional, they must maintain an active interest to avoid compromise. The enemy, as ever, is investor laziness, as well as the loose way ethical and environmental funds have been grouped together.

Eiris: 0171 735 1351.

## Now the waiting game begins



Now that the expected has happened, the City waits to see whether a Labour Government actually does what it said it would and more importantly, sticks to what it said it would do.

With the great renationalisation shibboleth well and truly buried, and anti-takeover legislation scrapped as a placatory gesture, all that remains politically to disconcert the City are possible corporate tax increases and

social policy reforms such as the minimum wage. Interest rate increases of a quarter to half a percentage point have already been factored in to bond and stock market prices.

Labour inherits a pretty robust economy with demand for manufacturing goods up 8 per cent on balance, according to the CBI's quarterly industrial trends survey. Inflation is close to its 2.5 per cent target and the big institutions have plenty of cash to invest.

Kleinwort Benson's favourite sectors are those promising long-term growth, such as banks, pharmaceuticals, and oil exploration. Brennan Hiron, chief investment officer for Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, believes that, in the short-term, the UK market will be buffeted by US interest rate rises but that overall the UK investment environment is good.

Rob Buckland, UK equities strategist at HSBC James Capel, the investment bank, also believes that banks will be star performers over the coming year. He says: "The bank sector is big and set to become much bigger, accounting for nearly 16 per cent of the whole stock market once the building societies have floated. A £10 billion

company like the Halifax cannot be ignored by fund managers. They will be keen to increase weightings in this sector and a possible shortage of stock should push prices up."

Record consumer borrowing figures and modest recovery in the housing market also make banks a good investment bet. Hill Samuel Asset Management, which manages £32 billion worldwide, is expecting 15 to 18 per cent dividend growth in this sector. Again, the only caveat is US interest rates.

Although the Tories tried to convince the electorate that the economy is booming, the boom seems to be restricted to the services sector. Restaurants, pubs, clubs and cinemas have been doing well as consumers have noticed more cash in their pockets — good news for brewers, such as Bass and Whitbread, and leisure companies, such as Rank, First Leisure and Ladbroke.

The £25 billion cash and share giveaway by the floating building societies and insurance companies will further boost disposable income. But Labour may well spoil the party if it increases indirect taxes to help to reduce public

borrowing and keep a lid on inflation. The danger is that higher taxes would slow down the services sector but have a much greater impact on the retail sector, where life is still tough. Intense competition is keeping prices down and recent disappointing results from Laura Ashley and MFI bear this out.

Hotels are currently doing well with occupancy rates close to maximum, especially in London, but the strong pound poses a threat to the number of foreign visitors.

If the windfall tax on the utilities is restricted to £3 billion, as Tony Blair has hinted, share prices in the water and electricity could zoom up, as most companies are thought to have made provision for a £5 billion levy.

The main blackspot for the economy is the weakness of export orders caused by sterling's continued strength. Companies such as British Steel and ICI are suffering. Exporters with high exposure to Europe are worse off than those more closely allied to the US because the pound is weak against the dollar but strong against the mark.

Investors beware.

MATTHEW WALL



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See p.9 Weekend

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## Helen Pridham explains why private health insurers do not always pay up Unsuitable cases for payment

Private medical insurance is becoming an increasingly popular benefit among company employees. This reflects a growing lack of confidence in the future of the National Health Service, whichever political party is in Government during the next five years.

Yet a recent survey shows much confusion among employees and employers alike about exactly what is covered by this insurance.

In spite of calls by the Office of Fair Trading last year for greater clarification of the benefits under private medical insurance policies, insurers seem to have done little to increase people's understanding. John Gillman, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, said: "The commonest area of misunderstanding is about the coverage of acute and chronic conditions. Many people do not appreciate that if an acute condition turns into a chronic one, cover will be withdrawn."

More people are covered by company schemes than by individual policies. An estimated 60 per cent of people with private medical cover belong to a group scheme. It is a company benefit that is clearly appreciated. A recent survey by Watson Wyatt found that medical insurance has now overtaken company cars as a favoured employee benefit behind pensions and sick pay.

However, Mr Gillman is concerned about the level of ignorance about the cover provided. In research carried out recently to find out how well informed people are, Watson Wyatt asked employees and employers whether or not their policy covered three conditions and for each condition a number of scenarios:

- Pregnancy (normal, Caesarean, in-vitro fertilisation).
- Cancer (initial treatment, ongoing care and check-ups).
- Diabetes (initial diagnosis and care, on-going treatment).

Many employees with private medical insurance believe they are covered for scenarios for which they are not, and a further quarter to two fifths are not sure whether they are covered. More unexpectedly — since they negotiate the deal



A sudden acute condition like those treated by Sherry Stringfield in ER will not be covered once it becomes chronic

and normally pay the premiums — the lack of understanding among employers is greater in some cases.

Although there are some inconsistencies among insurers, Mr Gillman says normal pregnancy is rarely covered. Yet more than a third of employees believe it is and so do a quarter of employers. In the case of a Caesarean section, insurers will normally pay when

this is carried out as an emergency procedure, but some will not do so if it is planned in advance, so it is important to check beforehand. Some 35 per cent of employees think Caesareans are covered.

The majority of employees and employers know that in-vitro fertilisation is not covered, but a surprisingly high proportion of employers — 41 per cent — were not sure whether it was

or not. Initial treatment of cancer will be paid for by the insurer, said Mr Gillman, and one or two follow-ups to check whether the condition has been cured. "But if the cancer turns out to be terminal or a long-term programme of check-ups is required, the insurer will not continue footing the bill for the continuing care. This is because it has changed from being an acute to a chronic

condition. This is where misunderstandings often arise because patients assume that if the insurer covers an operation, they will be looked after to the end," he said.

The Watson Wyatt survey found that 36 per cent of employees thought their insurance would cover the cost of care if they were terminally ill with cancer, while 55 per cent of employers thought the same.

Treatment of diabetes, which is a chronic condition, is not covered by private medical insurance although acute flare-ups may be. If a patient goes into a coma because of undiagnosed diabetes, for example, the bill for treatment at this stage would be met by the insurer but not the cost of the ongoing maintenance treatment required thereafter. Again employers had higher expectations of the cover than their employees — 46 per cent thought on-going treatment was included against 33 per cent of employees.

Is there any way that employees can improve on the cover provided under their company's private medical insurance scheme by paying more? According to Mr Gillman: "Employees can often pay a top-up premium so that their immediate family can be covered, but they cannot buy more extensive medical cover. This would defeat the object of a group policy. And no medical insurer will pay out for treatment of chronic conditions anyway. You may get extra cover under a top-of-the-range individual policy, but you will pay a very high price."

More often, he points out, employees are better off under a group scheme than they would be with an individual policy. A company scheme may include psychiatric cover and if you are a member of a large group, your pre-existing illnesses are also covered.

If there are "grey" areas of cover where payment of a medical bill is in dispute, your employer may be able to persuade an insurer to rethink. If this approach is unsuccessful, though, the matter becomes more difficult to deal with.

Even where an insurance company is a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau — and several large medical insurers such as Bupa and PPP are not — there is no automatic right to have your complaint heard by the ombudsman if you are covered by a group scheme. The ombudsman is primarily there to deal with complaints under individual policies unless an insurer agrees otherwise.

## Growth hormone needed for PMI industry

Medical insurance premiums will rise by an estimated 12 per cent this year, driven by the rising cost of hospital care, the trend towards more complicated operations and the increasing number of claims. PPP, one of the UK's largest healthcare providers, says the rise will be spread across the whole industry.

While healthcare providers advertise heavily in an attempt to attract those who have so far relied on the National Health Service for their hospital care, most people believe they will witness the dismantling of the welfare state and the NHS within 50 years, according to a survey commissioned by Bupa, the largest UK private healthcare provider. However, only 10 per cent of the population are doing anything to protect themselves in the short-term. In spite

of evidence in Bupa's survey that more than 70 per cent of people questioned believe they will need private medical insurance within ten years, demand for PMI has remained static for the past decade.

The study, commissioned for Bupa's 50th anniversary, shows Britons have a gloomy expectation of the future of the NHS and appear to set no store by the promises of both leading political parties that the NHS will survive. One third of the 2,000 people questioned for the survey thought emergency treatment in hospital would not be free within ten years, and almost 70 per cent expected to have to meet the full cost of residential care for elderly relatives.

The number of people buying PMI cover has increased by only 700,000 to 5.7 million over

the past decade — an estimated 10 per cent of the population. This figure hides a boom in the 1980s and a decline during the recession of the early 1990s.

The 90 per cent of the population which has so far not bought PMI appears in no rush to do so. Consumers have been discouraged by the cost of comprehensive cover and poor publicity surrounding the industry as a whole. Last year the Office of Fair Trading criticised providers for not giving enough detail about the cover provided by policies, making comparisons difficult.

The leading providers have made attempts to resolve this by rewriting their policies to reduce jargon. PMI is widely perceived, as expensive and premiums have been increasing. There have also been a number of

incidents where people had PMI for many years and when they made a claim, discovered that they were not covered. Bupa has 45 per cent of the market, down from its peak of 75 per cent in 1970s, while PPP, its nearest rival, has increased its market share by 4 per cent to 27 per cent.

Both Bupa and PPP claims to have been trying to keep premiums under control by monitoring hospital and consultant fees and costs. The two companies are convinced that there is opportunity for growth. Others appear to think the same. Less than a fortnight ago the RAC made a foray into PMI. Others are expected to follow.

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Monte Carlo or bust: non-UK assets in offshore trusts held by Britons who are living abroad could be tax targets

## Inheritance likely to be early tax target

Anyone who has procrastinated over estate planning should act now. Labour has never hidden the fact that it wants to reform what it sees as loopholes in the inheritance tax rules, and the changes are expected to come very soon. Gordon Brown has made clear there will be a windfall tax in a summer budget before the House rises in July. Other tax changes are expected to be brought in at the same time.

The Budget is likely to be held in July, but the changes could be pre-dated from as early as mid-May. Maurice Fitzpatrick of Chantrey Vella, the accountant, said it has become standard practice to announce tax changes in a pre-Budget press release, with the changes taking effect from the press release date. "If you are going to make a significant gift to your heirs, do it next week," he said. Inheritance tax is widely seen as a tax paid mainly by those who cannot afford to avoid it. While Kenneth Clarke, the Conservative Chancellor, said he wished to abolish inheritance tax altogether, Labour is expected to tighten the rules to bring in the estates of the more affluent. At present, inheritance tax is charged at a rate of 40 per cent on everything over £215,000 of an estate. Those hit hardest are middle class homeowners who do not have much in the way of other assets but who have seen rising property prices lift the value of their homes above £200,000. Anyone with enough money can shield most of their estate from the tax man by giving away assets as gifts while alive through a Potentially Exempt Transfer

**Karen Zagor looks at Gordon Brown's possible plans for raising revenue**

(Pet). There is no limit to the amount that can be given away as a gift through a Pet. The transfer is exempt from inheritance tax provided the benefactor does not die within seven years of making the gift. This is not much use for someone whose main asset is their home, but it is an extremely useful way of whittling down a £10 million estate to £1 million. Labour is likely to clamp down on these transfers by ensuring that all gifts from an estate are recorded during a person's life. On death, the cumulative gifts, as well as the remaining estate, would be taxed when the inheritance tax threshold is passed. This would be similar to the last Labour government's capital transfer tax, introduced in 1974 and abolished by the Conservatives in 1986.

It is also possible that Labour will phase out heritage relief and take a closer look at the rules on inheritance of business properties and farms. At present, assets which are deemed to be significant to the nation's heritage, such as historic homes, can be passed on without incurring inheritance tax. Labour would also like to clamp down on the practice of buying farms to escape inheritance tax. But

there is no intention of taxing working farms passed on through the generations. The domicile rules may also change to prevent British residents from shielding assets in offshore trusts. At present, non-UK assets which are put into an offshore trust by people who are not domiciled in the UK are not liable to inheritance tax, even if the person later becomes domiciled in the UK. The worldwide estate of anyone domiciled in the UK is subject to the UK's inheritance tax rules.

The general message from accountants is that, if you are in a situation where you may be able to safeguard some of your estate from the tax man under the existing rules, you should act now, before it is too late. One inheritance tax item expected to be safe is the annual £3,000 gift allowance introduced many years ago but which has not been indexed for inflation. This lets anyone give away a total of £3,000 to heirs without incurring inheritance tax.

Labour is also likely to address the reform of capital gains tax, which is paid on investment gains of more than £6,500 in a single year. Only about 80,000 people pay capital gains tax, and it is relatively easy to spread the sale of an investment over several tax years if there is a danger of exceeding the allowance.

The most likely area of capital gains tax reform is for reinvestment relief. Investors who reinvest chargeable gains into qualifying unquoted shares in a trading company within three years can defer the tax charges on the original gain.

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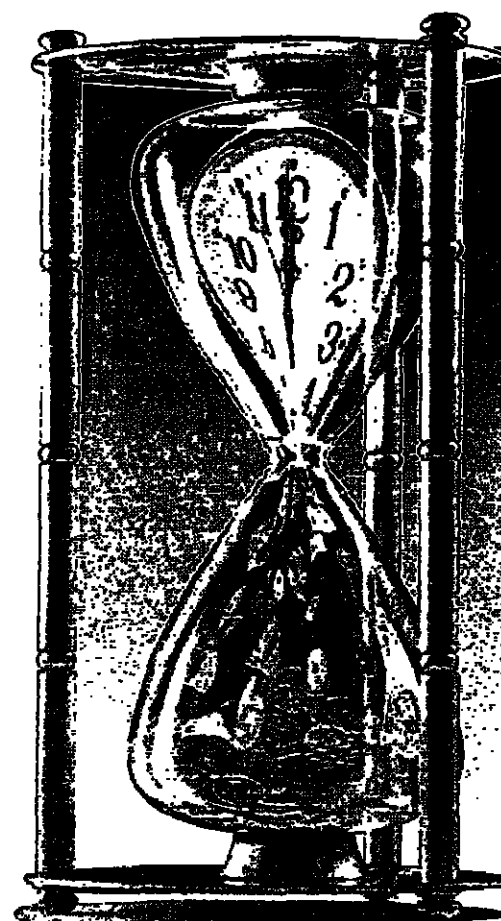
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## Planning For Retirement?





SATURDAY MAY 3 1997

# Brown faces hard choice for reforms

Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, has promised a Budget within the next two months. His targets seem likely to include relief on private medical insurance, available for the over-60s, and capital gains and inheritance tax.

But while Mr Brown might like to get unpopular measures out of the way in his early period of office, in the same way that Geoffrey Howe doubled VAT when the Tories took charge in 1979, the mechanics of introducing radical changes may mean it is more difficult for him to make big reforms than he has anticipated.

Mr Brown's oft-repeated pledge not to change the basic or top rate of tax does not mean that there will be no other changes to income tax. But his long-term aim to have a starting rate of 10 per cent for income tax is unlikely to receive attention in his first Budget. The expenditure constraints within which he will operate will give him little room for manoeuvre, in the short term, for reducing income tax rates.

Labour have made it clear that they will review the whole system of income tax reliefs and personal allowances, the amounts that can be earned before tax is payable. However, it seems unlikely that the Chancellor would move to change the allowances in his first Budget, in spite of rumours that he could reduce all of them to the 15 per cent rate of tax that now applies to the married couple's allowance.

Basic-rate income tax relief for private medical insurance premiums is likely to be an early casualty of the new government. Longer term, abolishing mortgage tax relief and possibly reducing the rate of relief on pension contributions may be implemented. At present, Miras is worth £360 a year to someone on a £30,000 mortgage. Removing the relief could raise a useful £2.7 billion.

Much thought needs to be given, however, to the long-term effects of possibly discouraging people from

## INTEREST-RATE POLICY



Savings rates are set to rise over the next few months after a period of relative stability in the run-up to the election. Most banks and building societies now expect rates of between 0.25 per cent and 0.5 per cent before a Budget in July.

Savers have suffered during the period of low base rates, which has seen returns on an instant-access account fall to as low as 1 per cent before tax. According to Moneyfacts, the savings guide, the average instant-access rate on a balance of £5,000 is 2.31 per cent. In 1979, when Labour left power, the rate was 11.9 per cent. The bank base rate was 12 per cent. However, inflation was also in double-digits.

The Halifax, the UK's largest lender, which is about to become a bank, said both mortgage and savings rates would mirror any base-rate rises. The Bradford & Bingley, believes long-term savings rates will be altered after the Budget is called. Until the announcement is made, investors looking for a home for their money would do well to avoid locking into fixed-interest products.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

making as much pension provision as they should. The future burden on the State of looking after an increasingly ageing population means that we need as much encouragement as possible to save for

our old age. Providing tax free savings vehicles in the form of tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and personal equity plans (Peps) has been a very effective way of encouraging investment. Labour has

indicated that they will continue with this principle and have suggested a new Individual Savings Account to promote long-term savings. This may not be a priority, however, for Gordon Brown's first Budget, so rushing to take out a PEP just to beat the Budget is probably not necessary.

Perhaps most significant for private investors could be the reduction or even abolition of Advance Corporation Tax (ACT). This is the tax paid by companies when they distribute a dividend. Charged at 20 per cent, having been reduced from 25 per cent under the Conservatives, it can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers, such as pension funds.

A reduction in the rate of ACT could hit share values as it would cut the income of pension funds who are the largest investors in the stock market. With lower income, they could not pay such high prices for shares.

Investors would also be affected by the windfall tax on

Tax targets, page 63

utility companies which could have an impact on the shares in these businesses. Labour continue to regard capital taxes — capital gains tax and inheritance tax — as effective ways of raising revenue (although at £2.4 billion, from a total Inland Revenue tax take of over £100 billion, they are relatively costly to administer) and have no plans for their abolition. In this they are supported by the Revenue, who consider these taxes at least prevent income being converted to capital. Instead, Labour plans to review the capital gains tax regime, again with a view to encouraging longer-term investment.

Inheritance tax will be retained, though Labour may look at the generous reliefs on some property, mainly farms and businesses, and which encourage people to give away wealth in their lifetime, either as direct gifts or to trusts.

ELSPETH MAY

Elspeth May is a partner at KPMG Tax Advisers

## Rush for fixed-rate loans

The large mortgage lenders, including the Halifax, the Nationwide and the Bradford & Bingley, do not believe Labour will be bad for the housing market.

Gary Marsh of the Halifax said: "Interest rates may edge up. But the economic background for the property market is likely to be unchanged. We do not think Labour will abolish mortgage interest relief in one fell swoop. This helps those on low incomes."

Home buyers were already braced for higher mortgage rates before the election result. Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor, has his first formal

meeting next week with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss interest rates.

However, even before the two men get to know each other, the money markets, which set the price of fixed-rate mortgages and savings accounts based on future base-rate movements, have already pushed up the rates on five-year loans to between 7.5 and 8.5 per cent.

There has been a rush by borrowers eager to fix rates in anticipation of a rise. This week Abbey National withdrew a 6.99 per cent five-year fixed-rate mortgage having

used up all the cash it had committed to the loan.

But the trend towards higher rates may look slightly less certain, after yesterday's announcement of a 6.09 per cent variable-rate loan from the new direct mortgage division of Northern Rock. Halifax's variable rate is currently 7.25 per cent.

The Northern Rock's move looks likely to spark a mortgage war, as lenders vie for the custom of a slightly more upscale customer, with savings for a deposit.

The new Northern Rock loan will be available only to those borrowers who have

saved at least a 15 per cent deposit. Ian Darby, from John Charcol, the London mortgage brokers, said: "Fixed rates are becoming too high. Instead, borrowers should consider capped-rate loans, where the rate is guaranteed not to rise above a certain level. This means that even if interest rates fall, they will not lose out."

Mr Darby recommends the fixed rates from Scarborough (1.25 per cent for one year), Abbey National (4.89 per cent for two years) and Woolwich (6.49 per cent for three years).

CAROLINE MERRELL

## New windfalls for old

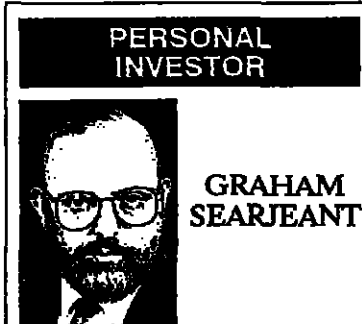
Share prices had a post-election boost before polling day, so sure did the result seem. This is simple relief that one big uncertainty is over. Buying orders, held up to wait and see, could go ahead. Beyond this, bulls are as bullish as before, bears as bearish.

Bulls have on their side the surprise recovery on Wall Street, where prices are regaining dizzy heights they seemed to have abandoned. The UK economy is going swimmingly, as the new Government will soon get used to saying. Sterling rides high, inflation is being held back and any tightening of interest rates need be only one cog.

Students of institutional cashflows know that pension funds, insurance companies and the like were boycotting equities for most of the past nine months by extracting cash from takeovers. They cannot do this for ever. Seemingly modest support helped the FT-SE 100 index reach its previous peak on March 10. Recent resilience is impressive.

Bears started the year with the proposition that shares had run ahead of their long-term growth trend and that interest rate rises would set them back. They are already looking ahead to new risks. You do not need binoculars.

The first meeting of grim Gordon and steady Eddie is due on Wednesday if the new Chancellor does not put off his tête-à-tête with the Governor. When they meet, a quarter point rise in base rates is expected, if only to present Mr Brown's credentials to the foreign exchanges. But he could flaunt his anti-inflation zeal with half a point or use the circular if unwisely argument that no action is

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needed because sterling is strong. Greater risk lies in the emergency Budget planned for two months hence. This will unveil the size and distribution of a utility tax that may be £3 billion, but could be up to £10 billion. The impact on BT could be zero or £1 billion.

How much further will the Budget go? The wider worry is "hidden" corporate taxes that would cut the budget deficit but not curb consumer spending. Cutting tax credits on dividends would hit personal equity plans, but act chiefly through pension funds. Share prices would fall a few percentage points. This could turn market sentiment round, setting off greater falls. Anyone thinking of a money-purchase pension may first wish to find out what is in store.

A tax could even be slapped on conversion windfalls as well as utilities. Otherwise, millions of new investors receiving shares in Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Norwich Union and Woolwich should have few qualms. There are no

guarantees. If privatisations are any good, the best returns usually occur over the first year. The first day may be the best of all, but in most cases you would have missed out unless you held on for a year or so. Thereafter, valuations settle down, performance averages out and sheep are sorted from goats.

A similar pattern is evident at the more comparable Abbey National, pioneer of building society conversions eight years ago. Those who sold in the first six months did not do themselves a favour. Abbey strongly outperformed its sector as well as the market average for three years, though most of the relative gain came in the first 18 months. Abbey has continued to deliver much better returns than the FT-SE 100 index, but only in line with other banks.

If the newcomers have potential, though surely not all will do as well. Norwich Union, in particular, is a pioneer undergoing a change similar in scope to Abbey's. The others should be held to allow them to show their paces but will eventually be vulnerable to harder times for banks.

Once such a company has settled into the pack, there is no point in holding it, rather than a unit trust, unless you are prepared to monitor its individual progress and prospects actively. Shareholders in Sears found that even a big, profitable, well-financed group with monopoly power and strong brand-names can just crumble away through complacency and bad management. Shareholders cannot afford to take anything for granted.

## Hong Kong markets wait their turn for change

The excitement of political change and the market's reaction to a new government is not restricted to Britain.

The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares yesterday rose to a record closing high of 4,455.6, up 10.6 points, on encouraging United States employment statistics. Traders in London said that the market had anticipated a Labour victory.

They approved of Tony Blair's decisive win which removed the dangers to the economy of the power struggle within a hung Parliament. Dealers in the East were also preoccupied with politics. Investors were watching the Hong Kong market for signs of nervousness in the run-up to the handover to China.

In just 58 days Hong Kong will become part of China in a transfer of power that will be fraught with tension and res

Final act? page 60

entment. So far the markets have been stable. The rapid upward trend of the past 10 years has been sustained. In the days before the official handover on June 30, the mood of calm seems likely to prevail.

The effect of the transfer on the Hong Kong economy is unknown, but businessmen will be hoping that the market will hold its nerve. Last week the opening of the Tsing Ma Bridge by Baroness Thatcher was accompanied by a display of British colonial exuberance that was not appreciated by the incoming Chinese regime. Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's leader after June 30, refused to attend the ceremony, which included the display of a giant union flag trailed by helicopter.

MARIANNE CURPHEY  
AND NATHAN YATES

No worries: A young Hong Kong Chinese boy mimics the lions outside the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank as the Crown Colony prepares for the handover to China

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